Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Rayphand steps down as OVR director. PAGE 2

CHCC successfully completes CMS revisit survey with positive results. PAGE 4

IN DISPUTE WITH MAYOR CAMACHO

DPL: We've been accommodating

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands says that it has been accommodating in addressing concerns raised by Saipan Mayor Ramon B. Camacho.

Last week, Camacho wrote a letter to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios requesting intervention in a conflict between his office and DPL.

Camacho, in his letter, raised an ongoing issue regarding the types and quantity of coral base materials that may be extracted from permitted Article XI (CNMI Constitution) lands and given to the CNMI government at no charge.

See DPL on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Department of Public Lands Secretary Teresita Santos speaks at a press conference.

Bail raised for man who 'disappeared' for a year

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

After failing to appear in court regarding his criminal case, a bench warrant had been issued for 46-year-old Anthony Villanueva on May 9, 2023. On Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2024, a year and four months later, Villanueva

See BAIL on Page 4

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Anthony Villanueva, middle, is escorted out of his bail hearing last Tuesday at the Superior Court in Susupe.

Bill to allow CHCC to retain medical professionals introduced

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota) has officially introduced Senate Bill 23-67, which essentially establishes a special medical facility permit to allow physicians licensed to practice in a foreign country to practice medicine at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Manglona

During a previous Senate session, Manglona officially introduced Senate

See BILL on Page 4

OFFICE OF THE CNMI GOVERNOR

STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS WITH CONGRESS

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang yesterday met with a delegation from the U.S. House of Representatives-Committee on Defense Appropriations. Their discussion focused on economic and military priorities and other topics meant to provide the congressional staff an expanded understanding of the urgent issues that are facing the CNMI, especially as it pertains to appropriations from U.S. Congress. Palacios reiterated that the economic stability of the CNMI is inextricably tied to national interests of the United States; he sought legislative advocacy, funding assistance, and other support from the staffers.

DPW addressing traffic concerns

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Department of Public Works secretary Ray Yumul, right, and DPW head engineer Henry Bautista discuss the ongoing road improvement projects on Saipan.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Works says it is addressing traffic concerns by implementing measures to alleviate traffic congestion along Beach Road just in time for the beginning of the upcoming school year.

In an interview with DPW Secretary Ray Yumul and head engineer Henry Bautista,

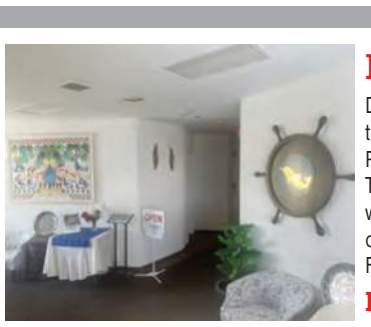
See DPW on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., through its Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, would like to remind the public about the dangers of misusing prescription medications, particularly opioids.

PAGE 6



BUSINESS

Dolphin Restaurant atop the 11th floor of Grandvrio Resort Saipan's Chrystal Tower offers a lunch buffet with the island's best view of the Saipan lagoon every Friday and Saturday.

PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE

Finally, a movie for everyone who read Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery" and wished it had been a comedy.

PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Rayphand steps down as OVR director

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

James Rayphand has resigned as Office of Vocational Rehabilitation director after filing his candidacy for delegate for U.S. Congress in the 2024 general elections on Nov. 5.

In his letter of resignation addressed to Gov. Arnold Palacios and Lt. Gov. David Apatang, he stated that his resignation will take effect on Aug. 30, 2024.

He also apologized to Palacios and Apatang for not sharing the same enthusiasm for their choice of candidates and potentially putting them in a difficult position with conflicting endorsements. He is also sorry for not taking into account the effect of his candidacy on their choice.

"As you are aware I have expressed my intentions to make a bid for the CNMI delegate to U.S. Congress, and given your endorsement of another one of the current candidates, I do not want to put either of you in the position of having one of your Cabinet members opposing said candidate. I'm sorry that I do not share your enthusiasm for any of the candidates. I'm sorry too that I did not consider my position as a Cabinet member and the impression it would have on you for me to run against your candidate of choice. What I know is about politics, you could fit in a thimble, but I do know that some of those nearest and dearest to me have gone above and beyond this past week to ensure that I can make the submission deadline this week and get on the ballot in November—I cannot let their efforts, support and trust go unanswered."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
James Rayphand files his candidacy for CNMI delegate to U.S. Congress in the 2024 general elections at Commonwealth Election Commission office last Aug. 5.

It was February of last year when he was appointed OVR director.

Palacios responded to Rayphand's letter on Aug. 13 and wrote, "Though I am disheartened to see you leave, I understand and respect your decision to pursue new opportunities. Your contributions to OVR in the past 18 months have been invaluable, and this was evident in your dedication and hard work."

Palacios also added Rayphand should ensure that any outstanding projects, tasks, and administrative matters will be addressed. He also asked Rayphand to recommend someone to work in an acting capacity.

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CHCC successfully completes CMS revisit survey with positive results

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. recently underwent a routine revisit survey by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services from Aug. 12 to 14, 2024. The purpose of this survey was to assess the CHC hospital's compliance with the rigorous standards set by CMS. The results were favorable, with CHCC receiving only three standard level findings and no conditional or immediate jeopardy findings.

The Conditions of Participation are critical health and safety standards that hospitals must meet to participate in Medicare and Medicaid programs. These standards are designed to ensure that hospitals provide safe, high-quality care to all patients.

Standard level findings indicate minor deficiencies where the hospital does not fully meet specific regulatory standards, but these issues do not pose an immediate threat to patient safety. Conditional findings are more serious and suggest that a hospital's compliance is at risk, potentially leading to a loss of certification if not corrected. Immediate jeopardy findings are the most severe, indicating situations where patient health or safety is at immediate risk, requiring urgent corrective action.

The CHCC's receipt of only standard level findings is a positive outcome, highlighting that while there are areas for improvement, the hospital's overall operations remain fundamentally sound and compliant with essential regulations. The absence of conditional or immediate jeopardy findings underscores the high standard of care and safety maintained at the hospital.

This means that the hospital remains fully certified and in compliance with CMS requirements. However, this is only a general statement, and it is essential to wait for the official Form 2567, which will provide detailed results and specific corrective actions required.

The successful outcome of this survey is a testament to the dedication, hard work, and professionalism of the CHCC staff and management. Under the leadership of CEO Esther L. Muña, CHCC continues to uphold stringent healthcare standards, ensuring that patients receive the best possible care. ***(PR)***

DPL

From page 1

The types and quantity of coral base materials that may be extracted as a public benefit from a quarry are controlled by the language of the Temporary Occupancy Agreement issued by the Department of Public Lands for that quarry.

According to Camacho, DPL Secretary Teresita Santos has not honored and enforced the TOA that allows the Municipality of Saipan to secure quarry materials needed for road repairs.

"This issue has been going on for over a year now and it has direct and serious implications for public safety and the wellbeing of our community. Despite the clear language of the TOA, the secretary instead has...inexplicably prioritized private business interest over those to whom she owes a fiduciary duty to, our people. The secretary's refusal is nothing short of an outright abandonment and gross neglect of the fiduciary duty she owes our people," he said.

In a statement from DPL, Santos expressed that DPL has accommodated the Municipality of Saipan even offering the MOS a quarry of its own at Obyan.

"In the spirit of cooperation and service, DPL has been accommodating (and continues to accommodate) meeting requests by relevant stakeholders to ensure that the needs of our NMDs and of the CNMI are met with the highest professionalism and in accordance with the statutory laws and the constitution. For example, DPL has previously offered the Municipality of Saipan a Temporary Occupancy Agreement for a site in Obyan that could be operated by the municipality as a municipal quarry," she said.

Saipan Tribune learned that Camacho declined the offer.

In addition, Santos said the TOA for quarry materials have been relinquished to the quarry operators and they now have the discretion of supplying agencies like MOS with quarry materials.

"To avoid ambiguity in interpretation of public benefit provision of the Temporary Occupancy Agreements, DPL has revised Article 11 of its agreement template to clearly state the quantity and process for obtaining coral base materials. The template language of Article 11 now states that a CNMI agency can avail itself of coral base coarse materials at no cost by making a request to the quarry operator," she said.

Santos further states that there are terms for agencies seeking to obtain quarry materials from quarry operators (or permittees).

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BAIL

From page 1

appeared before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio at the Superior Court in Susupe for a bail hearing.

Villanueva appeared in court under the custody of the Department of Corrections after his recent apprehension.

When Kim-Tenorio asked Villanueva where he has been all this time, he responded that he had been at his house.

When she asked whether he had been in contact with his lawyer he said he had not.

Villanueva told the court that he had misunderstood the process for the proceedings. "I was waiting to see if they were going to call me... I forgot that I had to come to court," he said.

Prosecuting attorney, assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas, said "since the beginning of this case in Oct. 17, 2022 until present, I don't know how he forgot, because he had three separate court appearances. But from these documents it looks like he failed to appear in both of them."

In October 2022, Villanueva was charged with theft, tampering with a vehicle, and criminal mischief. His first bail was originally at $1,000, but due to his continued absence for his scheduled court appearances, and recently with an unheeded bench warrant, bail was increased to $5,000. Prosecution proposed it be maintained at $5,000 cash.

"A plea agreement was sent to the Public Defender's Office since Nov. 1, 2022. There is also a traffic case that's related to this one when the bench warrant was issued.... And the offer that was extended that this was calling for some jail time, so I'd ask that bail be maintained at $5,000 cash... "

The court took the prosecution's bail proposal upholding bail at $5,000, upon posting $5,000 cash Villanueva may be released.

According to court documents, on September 2022, Villanueva and another suspect unlawfully took or operated a vehicle without the consent of the owner, with "intent to permanently deprive the owner of its title to possession of that vehicle..."

The vehicle had been under Alamo Rental Car, specifically a Mazda CX-3 vehicle.

According to the documents, Villanueva willfully damaged or tampered with a vehicle or its contents, or broke or removed any part or parts of the vehicle without the consent of the owner, by shattering the vehicle's windshield, and took out the front panel of the dashboard, spray painted the vehicle's front lower bumper, rims, and/or replaced the vehicle's license plate.

Saipan Tribune archives state that on Sept 20, 2022, Villanueva came before Associate Judge Joseph Camacho who imposed a $5,000 cash bail on Laraad Makaila Aldan Ramangmou, one of two accused of stealing a rental car and asking the rental company for a reward for finding the car. The second was Villanueva.

Ramangmou, 28 at the time, faced the same charges of theft of vehicle, tampering with a vehicle, and criminal mischief.

Following the bail hearing, Ramangmou was remanded to Department of Corrections' custody and was ordered to return to court on Sept. 28, 2022 at 10am for a preliminary hearing, and an arraignment on Oct. 3, 2022 at 9am.

According to court documents on Aug. 29, Ramangmou and Villanueva rented a dark gray Mazda CX-3 from a car rental company.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BILL

From page 1

Bill 23-67 that essentially establishes a special medical facility permit to allow physicians licensed to practice in a foreign country to practice medicine at CHCC.

The Senate bill now moves to a committee for discussion.

According to Manglona in a public post, if the bill is signed into law, the CNMI may be able to recruit and retain medical professionals that are willing to stick around longer.

"The challenges we face in the CNMI, but most especially on Rota and Tinian, is being able to recruit and retain qualified medical providers. Current statute makes it difficult for foreign medical professionals to practice here and so this legislation will allow for the CHCC management along with the Health Care Professions Licensing Board to adopt regulations that would make the pathway for practicing foreign licensed medical providers much easier and less restrictive while maintaining the highest level of standards," he said.

According to the language of the bill, Senate Bill 23-67 ultimately aims to establish a structured pathway for the recruitment of exceptionally gifted foreign licensed physicians to enhance healthcare services in the CNMI.

S.B. 23-67 would also allow the Commonwealth to issue a special medical facility permit to foreign licensed physicians who have been identified and vetted by CHCC board and management and approved by the CNMI Health Care Professions Licensing Board.

This would provide a comprehensive and structured pathway for foreign licensed physicians to supplement current healthcare resources to uphold the highest standard of healthcare delivery and enhance the quality of medical services in the CNMI, the bill states.

The bill requires interested foreign physicians to apply for a special medical facility permit.

The applications will be evaluated by the CHCC leadership and the licensing board. The special medical facility permit will allow foreign physicians to practice at CHCC for three years and, if extended, for another three years.

DPW

From page 1

they shared that DPW, the Public School System, the Department of Public Safety, and GPPC have come together to discuss a plan to alleviate congestion along Beach Road near Marianas High School as the start of the school year is just around the corner.

"We've been getting complaints because of the construction activity especially the northbound lane. The traffic congestion, obviously, is going to be a big problem. Even at our current situation, the traffic is already building up especially from Atkins Kroll Toyota to just past [Saipan] World Resort. DPW engineers, along with DPS, PSS, and GPPC, have come together to devise a strategy to get traffic to ease up. So, some solutions were regarding the traffic light across World Resort which is currently on a timer system that's kind of like a round-robin system. That wasn't very efficient. So, the decision made was to close the cross walk across World Resort and shift it south so that the traffic lights will remain blinking so that motorists can just take turns. Tourists will be advised to use the cross walk that will be moved south of the intersection. That should alleviate the traffic congestion down south," said Yumul.

Going up north, near MHS, Yumul said the outbound northbound lane is set to be paved by next Tuesday which would also alleviate traffic. However, traffic will still be existent in the area as GPPC moves on with renovating the northbound inner lane in the area.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the **MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY** hereby gives **NOTICE** that a **REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** will be held at the MVA Conference Room on **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2024,** at **9:00 A.M.**

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes
      i. July 2, 2024 - Regular Board Meeting
2) **Public Comments**
3) **Committee Reports**
   a. Finance Committee
      i. FY2024 Fund Status
   b. Destination Enhancement Committee
4) **New Business**
   a. Election of New Officers - MVA Board of Directors
   b. RFP for Safety Video Airtime Services
   c. RFP for Financial Compliance and Auditing Services
5) **Old Business**
6) **Executive Session**
7) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
   a. Other
   b. Next Regular Board Meeting
8) **Adjournment**

/s/Gloria Cavanagh
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors
PATA

MOU to run solid waste management training program inked

The Office of Planning and Development, Department of Public Works, and the Northern Marianas Technical Institute signed a memorandum of understanding last Aug. 7 to run a training program for the solid waste management staff of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The program is expected to launch later this year.

This training program is made possible through a $161,000 Solid Waste Management Grant that was awarded to OPD from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in February 2023.

The program, which will be taught by NMTech, will be an 80-hour training course that covers landfill operations; standard procedures for disposing and handling e-waste, household hazardous waste, and appliances; and worksite safety and emergency response. Attendees will receive an NMTech-endorsed certification upon completion of the program.

Partnering offices and organizations for this training program include OPD, DPW, NMTech, the CNMI Department of Labor- Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and Marianas Environmental Services, which currently oversees landfill operations at the Marpi Landfill on Saipan.

OPD deputy director Christopher Sablan thanks DPW and NMTech for being a part of this significant joint effort and envisions this program becoming a nationally accredited, mandatory course for current and prospective solid waste management staff in the future.

"As the CNMI government continues to strive for sustainable and responsible solid waste management, it would be ideal if all CNMI solid waste staff in the public and private sector are on the same page in terms of operating procedures and safety protocols and held to a nationally recognized standard."

For Public Works Secretary Ray Yumul, this partnership may be a first, but it will not be the last. DPW continues to work closely with OPD as they continue to develop the CNMI's Comprehensive Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan and looks forward to the long-term investments into the CNMI's solid waste management staff and services.

"A comprehensive training program such as this one for DPW's solid waste staff is a long time coming, and we are grateful that this partnership and this grant funding from the USDA can make it possible. We look forward to enhancing the capabilities of our staff and raising the bar for the solid waste management services that DPW provides to the CNMI," said Yumul.

NMTech CEO Jodina Attao said that the training program elevates the standard of training for solid waste management in the CNMI and gives NMTech students an opportunity to explore a new career field and contribute to the community in meaningful ways.

"We are thrilled to be part of this groundbreaking collaboration. Our approach of comprehensive capacity building benefits both students and agencies as we work toward shared goals for a vibrant CNMI. It's an exciting time for education and public service,"said Attao.

For more information, send an email to planning@opd.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

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CHCC urges safe prescription practices amid rising fentanyl dangers

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., through its Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, would like to remind the public about the dangers of misusing prescription medications, particularly opioids.

Using someone else's prescription or taking drugs without medical screening is not only hazardous to your health, but it is also illegal. Your life, and the lives of your loved ones, could depend on the responsible handling of prescription medications.

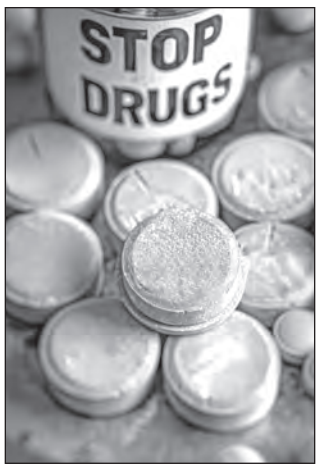
Prescription opioids, when used correctly under the guidance of a healthcare provider, can be effective in managing pain. However, the misuse of these powerful drugs can lead to addiction, overdose, and even death. Among the most dangerous of these opioids is fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that is up to 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin. Even a small amount of fentanyl can cause a fatal overdose.

Additionally, fentanyl is increasingly being illegally distributed in forms that are difficult to detect. This makes it critically important to practice safe medication habits and to be aware of the risks associated with opioid misuse.

To support the community in preventing opioid misuse, the CHCC PDMP advocates for the STAY SAFE Method, a set of guidelines designed to promote safe practices:

- **S**tick to the dosage prescribed by your doctor.
- **T**ell your doctor if you are concerned about addiction.
- **A**lways follow your doctor's instructions.
- **Y**ou can ask your doctor for another option.
- **S**tore medicine securely, out of reach of children, teens, and visitors.
- **A**void mixing medications or combining them with alcohol.
- **F**ollow proper disposal instructions for unused pills or consult with your pharmacy.
- **E**liminate opportunities for others to find and misuse unused medications.

Taking medications as directed is essential for recovery and well-being. However, using drugs for purposes other than those medically intended-such as to get high, relax, study, or enhance performance-is both illegal and dangerous. CHCC-PDMP strongly advise against borrowing or sharing any prescribed medications. It is critical to speak with your doctor about any concerns regarding opioid use, to never mix these drugs with alcohol, and to strictly adhere to the prescribed dosage.



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The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. said the misuse of prescription medications can lead to addiction, overdose, and even death.

The CHCC-PDMP also highlights the recent enactment of CNMI P.L. 23-23, a law that strengthens efforts to combat substance misuse and prevent opioid overdoses across the Commonwealth. This law complements the PDMP's broader mission of reducing substance misuse and overdose deaths through enhanced monitoring, education, and intervention. It ensures greater availability of naloxone, a life-saving medication that can reverse opioid overdoses, and allows emergency responders to use naloxone and other treatments of overdose to prevent overdoses.

For any questions or more information about the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, call (670)-322-0061. ***(PR)***

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID

ITB24-DCCA/CCDF-42400142

SUBMISSION DATE: September 28, 2024
TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS "F" VEHICLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS/CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL AT (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BUILDING NO. 12386, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MS. MARIBEL D. LOSTE AT CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND, AT (670) 3664-2573 OR (670) 664-2590.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ VIVIAN T. SABLAN
ACTING SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS, JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM • WEBSITE: HTTPS: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-008-24-(REPACKAGED)
SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"60 MONTH LEASE OF FIVE (5) ALL-IN ONE MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER MACHINES"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING AUGUST 16, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "60-MONTH LEASE OF FIVE (5) ALL-IN-ONE MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER MACHINES **(IFB-008-24-REPACKAGED)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., SEPTEMBER 20, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

FREDERICK PANGELINAN
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: AUGUST 16, 2024

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP24-GOV/OGM-42400138

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"ENERGIZING INSULAR COMMUNITIES 30.0 KW SOLAR PV PROJECT OFFICE OF AGING (ROTA)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12386, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-305, 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA JR.
STATE ADMINISTRATOR, OGM

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB24-OGM-42400132

SUBMISSION DATE: September 06, 2024 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"Purchase of One (1) Class "E" Vehicle for the Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL AT (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BUILDING NO. 12386, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR. AT THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT AND STATE CLEARINGHOUSE, AT epi.cabrera@gov.mp or at (670)322-9994.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70039.3-725 and 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS OF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ Epiphanio E. Cabrera, Jr.
STATE ADMINISTRATOR, OGM

/s/ Brien S. Nicholas, Jr.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

5 divisions of Finance to operate with limited resources

The Department of Finance advises the public that five of its divisions will operate with limited services next week, Aug. 19-22, 2024.

The CNMI Treasury & Passport Acceptance Office, Div. of Financial Services, Div. of Procurement Services, Div. of Revenue & Taxation, and the Office of the Secretary will have limited services from 7:30am to 1pm on Aug 19, 20, and 21; and from 7:30am-5pm on Thursday, Aug 22, 2024.

Regular operational hours will resume 1pm-4:30pm, Aug 19-21; and 7:30am-4:30pm on Fri, Aug 23, 2024.

Should you need assistance, email info@dof.gov.mp or call (670) 664-1100. ***(PR)***

BEACH TOYS 25% OFF

CRAYONS & COLORING PENCILS 25% OFF

GIRLS BLOUSES 25% OFF

HOUSEWARES 25% OFF

LADIES PANTS 25% OFF

MENS SHORTS 25% OFF

PARTY FAVORS 25% OFF

PENCILS & PENS 25% OFF

NOTEBOOKS & FILLER PAPERS 25% OFF

SEWING AIDS 25% OFF

SCHOOL LUNCH KITS 25% OFF

SPORTING GOODS 25% OFF

SUNGLASSES & EYEGLASSES 25% OFF

SWIMMING GOODS 25% OFF

SHOWER CURTAINS 25% OFF

WICKER BASKETS 25% OFF

JOETEN 3-DAY END OF SUMMER SALE

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, AUGUST 16 TO 18, 2024

US CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS 20 LBS $16.99/cs.

US BEEF SHORTRIBS $5.99/lb.

US PORK BELLY FAMILY BAG 6 LBS $19.99

US PORK CHOPS FAMILY BAG 7 LBS $16.99

HOFFY PORTUGUESE SAUSAGE 10oz $2.99

CHUCKWAGON HOTDOGS 1 LB $1.75

JAMESTOWN BACON 1 LB $3.99

HAFA ADAI JASMINE RICE 22 LBS $15.99

ACE OF DIAMONDS TUNA 7oz $1.89

JOETEN BUTANE GAS 4 PACK $23.99/cs.

GROCERY/MARKET ITEMS

BAR-S CHOPPED PULLMAN HAM 10LBS $28.99	NORBEST GROUND TURKEY 1LB $3.89	CHICKEN GIZZARDS / LB $2.09/lb.	US FROZEN CHICKEN DRUMSTICK 25P TRAY PACK $1.19/lb.	FROZEN WHOLE TILAPIA FISH G&S $1.99/lb.	DUNGENESS CRAB WHOLE COOKED 1.5-2LBS $8.75/lb.	U.S. APPLE FUJI WASH / LB $1.45/lb.
U.S. CABBAGE GREEN HEAD (S) $1.19/lb.	U.S. CARROTS LOOSE 99¢/lb.	U.S. CELERY STALK W/ SLEEVED / LB $1.35/lb.	U.S. LEMON (LB) $1.59/lb.	U.S. ORANGE CHOICE / FANCY $1.45/lb.	U.S. PLOUTS RD/YLW/GRN $2.99/lb.	U.S. POTATO RUSSETT/ IDAHO (S) $1.05/lb.

Joeten Shopping Center

Although Joeten strives to ensure that all pricing information on this ad is accurate, occasionally an error may occur and goods may be mispriced. We reserve the right to correct all typographical and pictorial errors.

P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. 234-6446/48 • Fax. 234-5876
Visit our 4-Branches: Joeten Susupe, Garapan, Dandan and Kagman

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS.
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES

Temporary road closure for Texas Road on Aug. 16

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a temporary road closure along Texas Road in Chalan Kanoa on Friday, Aug. 16, 2024, from 9am to 4:30pm.

The road closure is necessary to allow CUC Wastewater Operators to install a 2-inch water pump bypass due to a collapsed 10-inch asbestos sewer line located on Texas Road in Chalan Kanoa.

Customers connected to CUC's Chalan Kanoa sewer lines will not be affected, as Wastewater personnel will be on-site to pump out sewage during this period.

CUC

The map of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s temporary road closure along Texas Road in Chalan Kanoa on Friday, Aug. 16, 2024.

About the sewer bypass

A sewer bypass temporarily redirects wastewater flow away from a section of the sewer system. This prevents backups, maintains services, reduces environmental impact, and facilitates repairs. Sewer bypass systems are essential for maintaining the integrity and functionality of wastewater management systems.

Due to the temporary road closure, motorists are advised to reduce speed and exercise caution while driving in the area or take alternative routes. CUC personnel will be providing detailed directions for accessing residential properties along the affected area.

CUC apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause and will continue to work diligently to provide reliable services for our customers. For more information, contact CUC's hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit its website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates.

In case of an emergency, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. ***(PR)***

Smoke testing for San Antonio today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that smoke tests will be conducted in the entire San Antonio village today, Aug. 16, 2024, from 9:30am to 4:30pm. The purpose of the smoke test is to locate leaks, breaks, and illegal connections in CUC's sewer system.

About the smoke test

A smoke test is a sewer inspection method whereby nontoxic smoke is forced into sewer system access points. The smoke travels through all connected pipes in the sewer system, indicating pipe leaks, breached utility holes, cracks, uncapped lines, and other defects.

Testers can also locate unknown pipe sections, such as cleanouts, downspouts, and sump pumps.

The smoke is nontoxic, nonhazardous, and is manufactured specifically for this purpose. It leaves no residue or stains and has no effects on plants or animals. The smoke is not expected to enter your home; however, if it does, it will have a distinct odor and should clear out within a few minutes with proper ventilation. Please be advised that all plumbing fixture drain traps must be filled with water before the test.

To ensure the safety of our CUC crew, certain roadways will be closed during the testing period to allow the Wastewater crew to access the manholes. Motorists are advised to reduce speed and exercise caution while driving in the area or take alternative routes.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding in helping identify customer connections. CUC aims to conduct these tests efficiently while minimizing disruption to customers' daily activities. By proactively engaging in this testing, CUC reaffirms its commitment to providing reliable wastewater services for the community.

For more information, contact CUC's hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit its website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. For emergencies, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. ***(PR)***

FAC remains the same for August 2024

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announces that the Fuel Adjustment Charge remains the same at $0.24173 per kWh for the month of August.

Although there has been a slight increase in the average fuel oil prices, the increase did not equal or exceed a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric rate, which is strictly for fuel and fuel-related purchases. The second component is the CUC base rate, which has not increased since April 2014 and is used to fund operations, projects, debt services, or any non-fuel-related expenses.

To view CUC's Schedule of Electric Charges and Rates, visit: https://www.cucgov.org/rates-and-tariffs/#electric. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-016-24
SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 30, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"IMPLEMENTATION & MAINTENANCE OF BIOMETRIC FACIAL RECOGNITION"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING JULY 23, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "IMPLEMENTATION & MAINTENANCE OF BIOMETRIC FACIAL RECOGNITION **(IFB-016-24)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., AUGUST 30, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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LEO B. TUDELA DATE: 7/23/2024
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARK SCOGGINS
SCOGGINS LAW OFFICE, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC1 U2, 2601 Chalan MSGR Guerrero
Chalan Laulau Village
P.O. Box 501127
Saipan, MP 96950-1127
Telephone Nos.: (670) 234-7455 / 7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256
Email: scogginslawoffice@gmail.com
markascoggins@gmail.com

Attorney for Petitioner.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
LUISA TAIMANAO ARRIOLA,
Deceased.

Civil Action No. 24-0177

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING / NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Date: September 19, 2024
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Judge: Hon. Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF HER ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, Jude T. Arriola, has filed a Petition For Letters of Administration in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to Rule NMI R. of Prob. 15.

A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the Court on **September 19, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** in Courtroom 220A, Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Pursuant to Rule NMI R. of Prob. 21, notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or her Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to Attorney Mark Scoggins at the above indicated address.

Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.

SO NOTICED this 9th day of August 2024.

/S/
CLERK OF COURT
CNMI SUPERIOR COURT

MINIMUM BID: VEHICLE FOR AUCTION 2018 TOYOTA COROLLA (COLOR: WHITE) MILEAGE: 61,146

For more information, please contact the Bank of Guam through its counsel, Robert T. Torres at Telephone Numbers (670) 234-7859 - (670) 234-5750.

Bids will be closed on

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2024 AT 4:00 P.M

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties – **Minimum bid is $13,000.00**
All bids must be received by 4:00p.m

Please call to schedule an inspection.
Vehicle bid form can be obtained from Bank of Guam counsel's office at:

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 500730 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Namaste Beautiful, LLC

THE POSITION: Beautician

NO. OF VACANCY: 1

JOB SITE: Unit 1, USL Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

JOB DESCRIPTION: Provide beauty services, such as shampooing, cutting, coloring, and styling hair, and massaging and treating scalp; Apply makeup, dress wigs; Perform hair removal and provide nail and skin care services.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

EDUCATION: Must be at least a High School Graduate.

WORK EXPERIENCE: Must have at least 24 months of relevant work experience as a Beautician

HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail comprehensive Resume and supporting credentials to:

AMY Q. WEISS
Member
NAMASTE BEAUTIFUL, LLC

Office Address: Unit 1, USL Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: PMB 108, P.O. Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: aimz20_2000@yahoo.com
Telephone Number: (670) 233-9642
Email Address: aimz20_2000@yahoo.com

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID

ITB24-DCCA/CCDF-42400145

SUBMISSION DATE: September 28, 2024
TIME: 9:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS "E" VEHICLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS/CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL AT (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BUILDING NO. 12386, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MS. MARIBEL D. LOSTE AT CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND, AT (670) 3664-2573 OR (670) 664-2590.

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/S/ VIVIAN T. SABLAN
ACTING SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS, JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

19 graduate from Ship Repair XII Bootcamp

GCC

The 19 graduates of Guam Community College's Ship Repair Bootcamp XII pose for a group during their completion ceremony on Aug. 8, 2024.

Friends, family, and supporters of the 19 Ship Repair Bootcamp XII completers filled the Guam Community College Learning resource to celebrate their boot camper in a completion ceremony on Aug. 8, 2024.

The Ship Repair XII Bootcamp started on June 14, 2024 and have completed their hands-on and in-classroom training in Auto Body Paint (Paint Preservation) and Intro to Diesel Technology & Preventative Maintenance I. Additional training and certification in Heartsaver First Aid, CPR & AED, WorkKeys®, Work Ethics, and OSHA 10 were also successfully completed.

Keynote speaker of the ceremony was Commander Kris M. Blandin, Commanding Officer, Military Sealift Command Guam Commodore, Military Prepositioning Squadron 3, shared the importance of the ship repair industry on Guam.

"Make no mistake the U.S. military is building up on island. I am sure you all know that. It's coming and already its in progress across the island the construction is happening," said Blandin. "More ships are coming. There is going to be a Marine Expeditionary Unit stationed here from Okinawa. They will all get here by next summer, that's the plan. Some of the first ones are coming already. This means we need a greater capacity for ship repair on this island. Cabras is working very hard to bridge that gap along with other ship yards in the area. But there is a gap, we need more people, more skilled laborers, we need people that can do the job. If they are not on island, they are coming from somewhere else. But I along with most of you here would like to keep that on island and build it up. It will create more jobs and more opportunity."

This bootcamp employer sponsor, Cabras Marine Corp., has offered all 19 successful completers a job with their company.

"The best thing about this bootcamp is that all these folks are going to be working for Cabras Marine Corp. So, we thank (Cabras Marine) for their commitment and support and their partnership in all the 11 Ship Repair bootcamps, now 12," said Dr. Mary A. Y. Okada, GCC president and CEO. "What we are all about here at Guam Community College is building capacity for workforce development," she added.

Earlier this week GCC received a $75,000 grant from the prestigious Metallica Scholars Initiative. Okada stated in the ceremony yesterday that this money will be spent to create and hold more Ship Repair Bootcamps.

"GCC got its first scholarship from Metallica and primarily to support ship repair capacity building. So, we used this model for ship repair to show the model we are using for bootcamps. Ship repair has been at the forefront of what we are trying to do here on Guam in terms of building capacity and it all fits the mold of what Metallica funds," stated Okada.

For more information on bootcamps such as this, or others, call GCC's Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development at (671) 735-5640 extension 5411, or email workforce@guamcc.edu. ***(PR)***

Up your grilling skills: UOG BBQ Bootcamp to focus on Boston butt

BBQ buffs island-wide are invited to refine their skills on the grill at a BBQ Bootcamp being offered by meat and animal scientists from the University of Guam Cooperative Extension & Outreach, National Chung Hsing University, and Chinese Culture University.

UOG

University of Guam extension animal and meat scientist Jeng-Hung "Leo" Liu looks on as a workshop participant seasons ground pork during a UOG meat processing workshop in August 2023. Liu and two visiting meat scientists from Taiwan will be leading a BBQ Bootcamp for Guam residents on Aug. 23 at UOG.

BBQ Bootcamp: Boston Butt

- 4pm to 7pm.
- Friday, Aug. 23
- Agriculture & Life Sciences Bldg., Room 125A/B, University of Guam
- Fee: $40

The bootcamp will educate participants on four different preparations for Boston pork butt: Texas-style pulled pork, Guam-style tinala katne, Taiwan-style char siu, and Taiwan-style braised pork with red rice. Participants will get hands-on experience with barbecuing techniques and smoking meat while also learning about food safety with meat preparation. They will also enjoy a BBQ dinner and leave with uncooked meat and recipes to prepare at home.

Registration and payment

Space is limited to 30 participants. Residents may register at https://url.uog.edu/bbq-bootcamp and must make payment of $40 by Wednesday, Aug. 21, to confirm their spot. Payment can be made in cash or check to Glenda Hall in UOG Agriculture & Life Sciences Building, Room 227.

For more information, call (671) 735-2062. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Harris signs onto a signature Trump issue, taking pandering to new depths

Pandering to voters is a time-honored tradition in American politics, but Vice President Kamala Harris took it to new levels with her surprising promise over the weekend to seek to end federal income taxes on tips.

Where have we heard that one before? Oh, yes, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump—you know, the guy Harris and fellow Democrats believe is an existential threat to the future of American democracy and whom they repeatedly lampoon as addled and at times incomprehensible—has made ending taxes on income earned from tips a centerpiece of his campaign. He's so focused on that particular proposal that often it's the only specific policy featured on many of his billboards; that's been the case for two months now.

It was no accident, of course, that Harris was campaigning at a Nevada rally when she thundered her support for making tipped income tax-free. Nevada is home to an unusually large number of workers dependent on gratuities, given the centrality of the entertainment and hospitality industries to its economy.

Nevada also is a tightly contested purple state that Joe Biden won narrowly over Trump in 2020 and where Trump has led in polls for much of 2024. Trump has said he came up with the idea after talking to a Nevada waitress about her financial troubles.

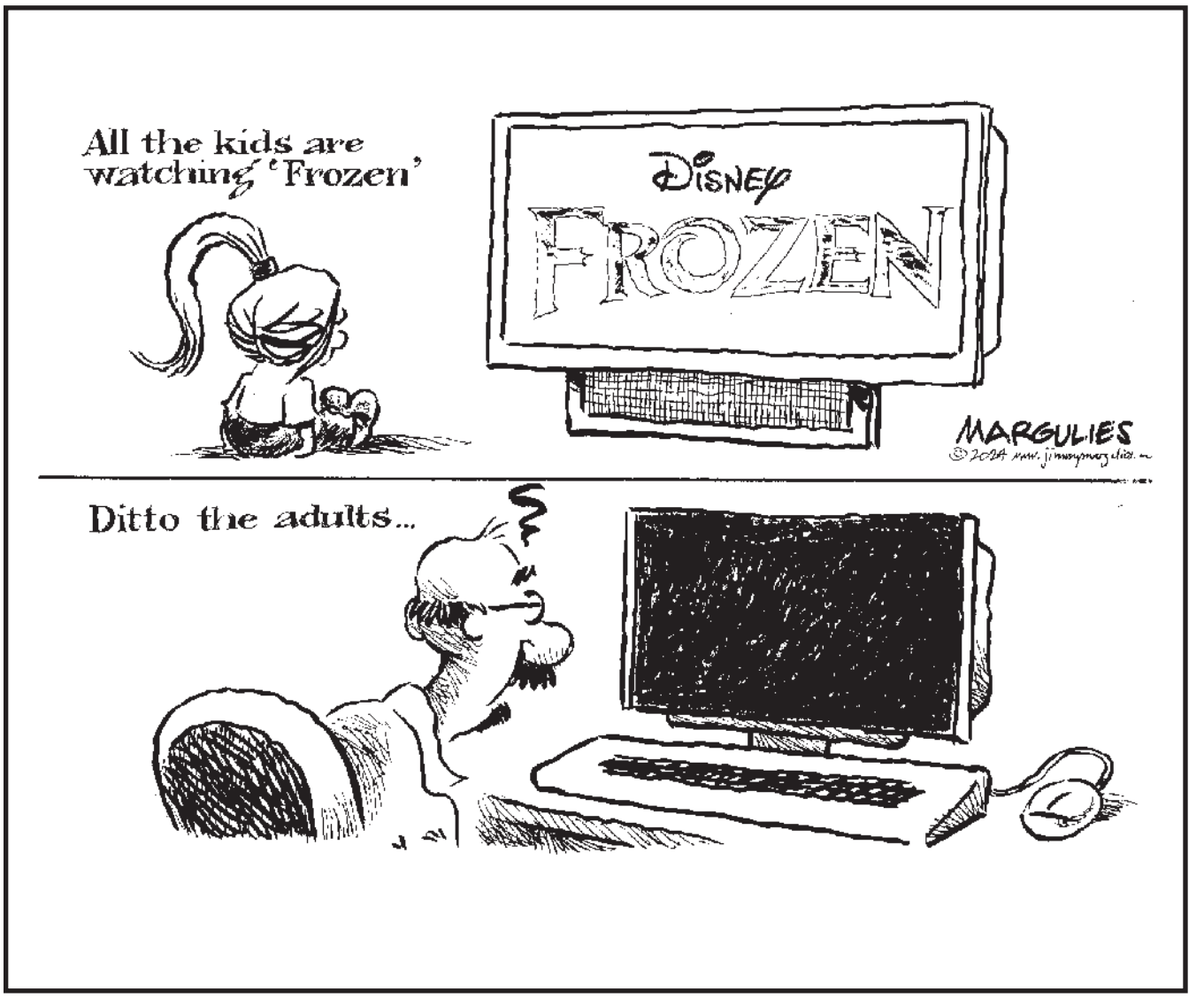
This page was most critical of Trump when he was the only candidate pushing this foolhardy policy, which a federal government in hock up to its eyeballs can't afford and which would create a nightmare of employers and employees claiming that income previously classified as salaried suddenly now is a gratuity.

We're no less critical of Harris now that she apparently has decided Trump was right about something after all. Maybe more so given that Democrats have tried with varying levels of success to position themselves as the party of fiscal responsibility while the GOP proffers deficit-financed tax cuts in election cycle after election cycle. Naturally, she gave Trump no credit or acknowledgment for the idea, prompting him to cry foul about copy-catting. Trump's grievance-filled habit of complaining about how he's treated often is devoid of substance, but in this case he may finally have seized on something legitimate.

Harris' truncated campaign, a necessity after Democrats quickly coalesced around her following President Biden's decision weeks ago to end his wheezing reelection campaign, has made it challenging for voters not already in their partisan bunkers to determine who she is and what she stands for. She has reversed herself on several positions she held in 2019 when she unsuccessfully ran for president.

Now she's mimicking Trump on a position that no doubt is music to the ears of servers, bartenders, barbers, baristas and other service providers across the nation. But it raises more questions than already were floating in the ether about which policies and issues are fundamental to her identity—and, conversely, which she will throw overboard for short-term political gain.

©2024 Chicago Tribune.



Sugary drinks make our water crisis worse

By URIYOÁN COLÓ N-RAMOS
Progressive Perspectives

Uriyoán Colón-Ramos is a scientist and Associate Professor of global nutrition at the George Washington University and a Public Voices Fellow at AcademyHealth & The OpEd Project. This column was produced for Progressive Perspectives, a project of The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.

As presidential candidates prepare their platforms addressing climate change and our dwindling water resources, it is more important than ever to add sugary drinks to the conversation. The solutions to today's water deficit crisis must tackle the increasing epidemic of sugary drink consumption.

For individuals, the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, a report published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, recommends drinking plain water instead of sugary drinks to prevent diabetes, tooth decay, obesity and heart disease, issues that cost us more than $17 billion in healthcare each decade. However, while Americans overuse water for industries like agriculture, we are not drinking it. Instead, we are drinking sugar-sweetened beverages.

Mounting evidence suggests that we turn to sugary drinks when we don't have access to clean, safe and palatable water. Distrust in tap water, low tap water consumption and high sugary drink consumption are common among communities that have historically lacked piped water services or suffered from water safety breaks. When bottled water is not available, people who do not trust their tap water or lack piped water at home tend to opt instead for prepackaged sugary drinks.

More than one-third of Americans feel unsure about drinking their tap water. Forty-six million Americans live with water insecurity—meaning they don't have running water or that the water in their homes is unsafe to drink.

A 2023 study in the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics demonstrated that families provided with a low-cost water filter started trusting the tap water enough to drink it and simultaneously decreased their sugary beverage intake. Taken together, this evidence suggests that the water crisis has contributed to a sugary drink and diabetes epidemic.

Demand for sugary drinks has also exacerbated the worldwide water crisis. The production of sugary beverages is an enormous waste of our dwindling supply of fresh drinking water.

Vast amounts of water are required to grow crops such as corn and sugarcane for the sweeteners commonly used in sugary drinks. Bottling a meager liter of soda uses 442 to 618 liters of fresh water, according to experts. In a Colombian municipality that houses a new Coca-Cola bottling plant, the company has been reported to consume 68.5% of the municipality's entire water use.

In India, Coca-Cola has been called out by researchers for continuously operating plants in severely water-stressed areas, depleting the aquifers.

In Brazil, advocacy groups and private citizens are concerned that Nestlé and Coca-Cola may negotiate for the rights to the Guarani Aquifer, one of the largest freshwater reservoirs in the world. While this claim is heavily denied by the same companies (who also deceivingly claim water neutrality), it is common practice for governments, such as the one in Puerto Rico, to allow corporations to use unlimited freshwater resources at no charge in their municipalities while their citizens lack access to safe, potable drinking water. (Not to mention, bottled beverages have led to a waste management and contamination crisis). Is it a surprise, then, that the places that are running out of water, like Bogotá and Mexico City, also happen to have the highest consumption of sugary drinks?

Strategies to address water scarcity and sugary drinks must align—only then can they benefit the planet and its people. For example, Brazil has a proposal to institute strict agro-ecological zoning laws for growing of sugarcane and plans for the sugar and its byproducts to generate bioethanol.

Similar approaches to address water and sugary drinks are long overdue in the United States. The 2024 Farm, Food, and National Security Act reflects the needs of sugarcane farmers, and the Biden Administration has made historic investments in water infrastructure.

And yet, these initiatives remain disconnected; the outputs of one potentially become obstacles to the goals of the other. Our shot at tackling water scarcity is drying up fast if we fail to recognize the interconnected impacts and opportunities linked to sugary drink production and promotion.

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How I cost Democrats the presidency in 1968

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News.

As the Democrats prepare to meet next week in Chicago, I thought back to their tumultuous 1968 convention, the third of the 27 I covered.

That's where I cost the Democrats the presidency. At least that's what the press secretary for that year's defeated Democratic nominee told me.

Let me explain.

As a junior member of the AP's convention staff, I was assigned to wait outside the suite of the presidential nominee, Vice President Hubert Humphrey, as he finalized his choice of a running mate. At one point, press secretary Norman Sherman emerged to advise that Humphrey was still consulting Democratic leaders about his choice.

Did those leaders include Lyndon Johnson? I asked, quite innocently. The unpopular president was sulking at his Texas ranch, unwelcome in Chicago after splitting the party and withdrawing from the race.

"Lyndon who?" replied Sherman, always a man with a quick wit, sometimes too quick. Quickly realizing his faux pas, he added, "That's off the record."

I looked at the roughly three dozen reporters in the crowded corridor and quickly realized there was no way I could comply with Sherman's too-late request, especially after being burned two weeks earlier on another off-the-record situation involving Humphrey.

When I reached a phone, I dictated the exchange, then resumed my wait. Eventually, Humphrey picked Maine Sen. Edmund Muskie, providing a flurry of hope for a convention marked by bitterness inside the hall and clashes between police and antiwar protesters outside.

But that was just the beginning. Unknown to me, my AP colleague, Harry Kelly, advised Sherman I was going to file his snarky comment. That meant wide dissemination since, in those days, the AP wire was the closest thing to the modern internet.

At the Johnson ranch, all hell broke loose, as I learned years later when Sherman related the incident to Todd Purdum, who was writing a book about the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

"A Secret Service agent came up to me and said there was a call from 'THE RANCH' in their command center," Sherman related. Both Johnson's press secretary, George Christian, and his deputy, Loyd (CQ) Hackler, were on the phone, and "when I said hello, they shouted 'Norman, who.' We laughed and soon hung up."

Humphrey's reaction was less friendly. The vice president, Sherman said, looked at him and "snarled, 'Did some son of a bitch on our staff say, 'Who's Lyndon?'"

"You've got the right son of a bitch, but the wrong line," Sherman said he replied. "I said, 'Lyndon who?'"

Sherman later discovered that Arthur Krim, a movie executive and Humphrey's main fundraiser, called him from the Johnson ranch and said he would not raise a penny more "if he had people like me on the staff."

For years after, Sherman regularly but jocularly blamed me for costing Humphrey the election, claiming that was why Johnson sat on his hands for weeks. Actually, his complaint was Humphrey's break from his Vietnam policy, and Humphrey lost because of internal party divisions.

There is a footnote: Some years later, my son Carl went to work for a Bethesda, Md., brokerage firm, where one of his colleagues was Sherman's wife, Ginny. When she discovered his name, she promptly told him his father had cost Humphrey the 1968 election.

The "Lyndon who?" incident was just one of several memorable events I recall from Chicago where, fortunately, I covered the politics, not the daily clashes in the streets.

One was the year's only presidential candidate debate, as Humphrey, Minnesota Sen. Eugene McCarthy and South Dakota Sen. George McGovern clashed before the California delegation.

Another was turmoil in the convention's Rules Committee, which had a long-lasting impact. A floor fight which insurgents won led to creation of the McGovern Commission, which overhauled the party's nominating procedures in a way that prompted most states to adopt primaries and scrap insider-controlled caucuses.

The Rules Committee met on an upper floor of the Conrad Hilton Hotel, and I soon noticed there were only two pay phones nearby. This was long before cell phones and a local phone company strike meant the usual extra phones at convention sites could not be installed.

I was determined to ensure no one beat me on my piece of the story. I recalled that an AP colleague, Austin Scott, later of The Washington Post, had shown me how to make a pay phone inoperative by unscrewing the mouthpiece and turning over a part called a diaphragm.

So that's what I did, so I would have a phone whenever I needed one. Many tried unsuccessfully to use the doctored phone, including Illinois Gov. Sam Shapiro, the committee chair. "I don't think it works," I helpfully told him.

But it always worked for me. At one point, I called my desk and was told The New York Times questioned my last update, since it heard nothing similar from its correspondent.

"Maybe he is having trouble finding a phone," I said.

Democrats were so snakebit by that convention they avoided Chicago for the next 28 years. The 1996 convention that renominated President Bill Clinton ran smoothly, remembered mostly for the frequency delegates broke into "Macarena," a popular song that summer.

Now, they are returning to Chicago, hoping for a convention more like 1996 than 1968. Though I won't be there, I'll be watching, as I bet will be an Iowa nonagenarian named Norman Sherman.

Humphrey died a decade later, having never reached the presidency. But we're both still around to laugh about it.

Laughter, where does it exist in Trump's world?

By ROBERT PAWLICKI
Tribune News Service

Robert Pawlicki is a retired psychologist and author. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.

"Have you ever heard Donald Trump laugh? I don't even know if he has any joy in his body."

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer made this remark in a recent interview. It's an insightful observation that reflects a major characteristic of Trump and how he will govern should he be elected.

It is not precisely true that Trump doesn't laugh. He does smirk and sneer. His amusement seems to take the form of self-congratulation when he denigrates others or when others do the same.

Laughter and joy are not measures to be dismissed. They reveal much about an individual's mindset and mental health.

Ronald Reagan knew how to laugh. He and House Speaker Tip O'Neill could laugh at and with each other. Lyndon Johnson was personally known for his sense of humor. A great storyteller, he navigated many an impasse with laughter.

These presidents not only laughed but also compromised and passed legislation. Laughter brings people together, signals acceptance, and fosters connection regardless of differences of opinion. At a time of deep political division, it's hard to think of a more needed salve.

Laughter at the expense of others divides. Trump's smirk is unhealthy. It shows an inability to relate to others' feelings or to be self-effacing. It compromises his ability to work with others and, thus, his governing capability.

Trump has called Vice President Kamala Harris' laugh weird, like a behavior he doesn't understand. From a psychological perspective, Harris' laugh is healthy. It reflects confidence, lack of fear, and acceptance of herself and others.

Trump uses laughter effectively to influence his supporters. His smirk bonds his followers through slurs, insults and prejudice at a time when many have felt discounted or had such insults directed at them.

The power of laughter is evident in Trump's support. His rallies are filled with laughter—unhealthy laughter. Underappreciated in Trump's popularity is the entertainment value he brings to his followers and the satisfaction he provides.

Trump's one-liners, disparaging his opponents, are the highlight of his events. His grins when the audience responds is about as close to laughter as he can get.

Between his exaggerations of greatness and grandiose predictions, his followers are treated to pleasure at the expense of others. Spontaneous laughter is absent, but degrading laughter is abundant, a reflection of Trump's values.

Liberals often fail to realize laughter's role in elevating Trump to his popularity. Supporters see friendliness, good cheer and camaraderie at his rallies and a bond with neighbors. Laughing together is powerful.

Laughter is a behavior and an emotion. Emotions play an enormous role in how voters vote. Republicans took great offense at Hillary Clinton's words "basket of deplorables"—a comment she believes was distorted. She claimed she was only referring to "racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic and Islamophobic," but it didn't matter. Accurate or not, the emotions evoked by her words strengthened middle-class division against her and may have cost her the election. Emotions matter. Laughter matters, and the kind of laughter especially matters.

In a recent rally in Atlanta, Trump confessed that "I only like people that like me," a rare expression of his internal feelings. This also reflects another characteristic of the former president—he has few deep friendships. Friendship usually involves laughter, trust and vulnerability. Laughter is mental nourishment. Lack of friendship often indicates an inability to be vulnerable and trust.

Democrats are now experiencing a candidate who can bring the power of laughter to their party, healthy laughter not based on the denigration of others.

Trump recently said, "I call her Laughing Kamala. Ever watch her laugh? She's crazy. You know, you can tell a lot by a laugh."

Yes, Mr. Trump, you can. And you can tell a great deal about someone who doesn't know how to laugh except to degrade others.

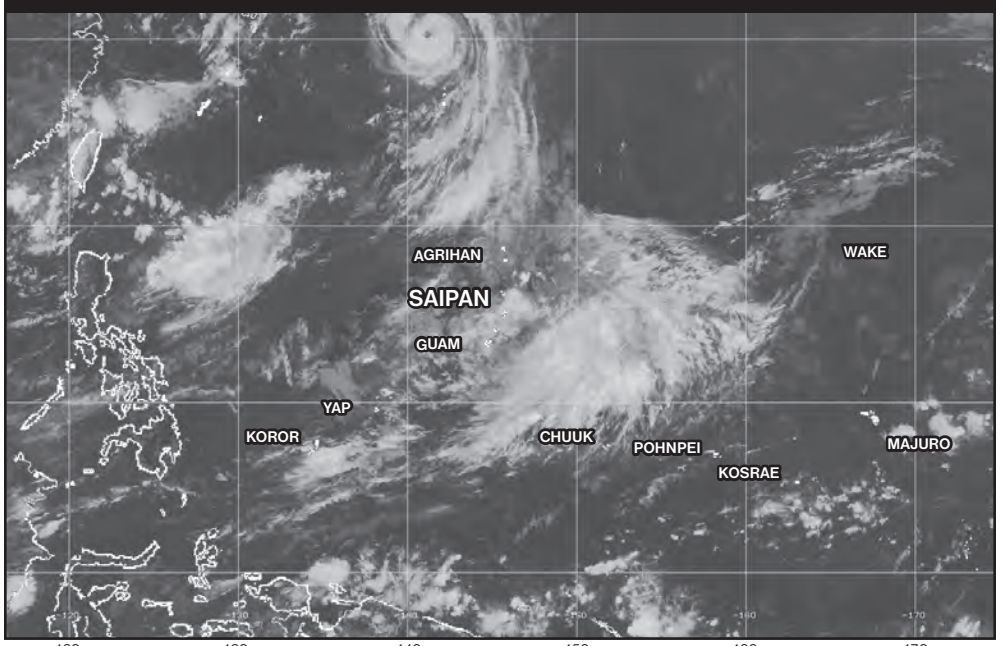
You may soon lose to someone with a healthy laugh.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy.	A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy.	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.
87° 79°	87° 79°	87° 79°	86° 79°	86° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:48 AM THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The forecast from yesterday really didn`t need any adjustment, all was well. Showers are starting out at low end scattered coverage, but will increase by Saturday, when the forecast has them turning into high end scattered coverage. This allows the forecast to have a gently nuanced trend. While it says scattered each day, the differing chances of rain tell a slight story.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Showers	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:38 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM
Tuesday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:59 AM	3:41 PM
Saturday	-	3:00 AM	4:39 PM
Sunday	-	4:04 AM	5:33 PM
Monday	-	5:08 AM	6:24 PM
Tuesday	-	6:11 AM	7:10 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°
Beijing	Fair	90° / 75°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Honolulu	Sunny	85° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	61° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 67°
Manila	Fair	91° /82°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	62° / 50°
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
New York	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	93° / 81°
Paris	Showers	97° / 71°
Busan	Thunderstorms	82° / 78°
Rome	Sunny	95° / 70°
Salem	Thunderstorms	91° / 73°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	67° / 56°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	96° / 79°
Tokyo	Cloudy	94° / 82°
Washington, DC	Clear	85° / 68°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:58 AM	High Tide	1.79
10:54 AM	Low Tide	0.00
6:41 PM	High Tide	1.85
11:28 PM	Low Tide	1.48

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
7C2306/3472	11:10PM	4:40PM+1	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

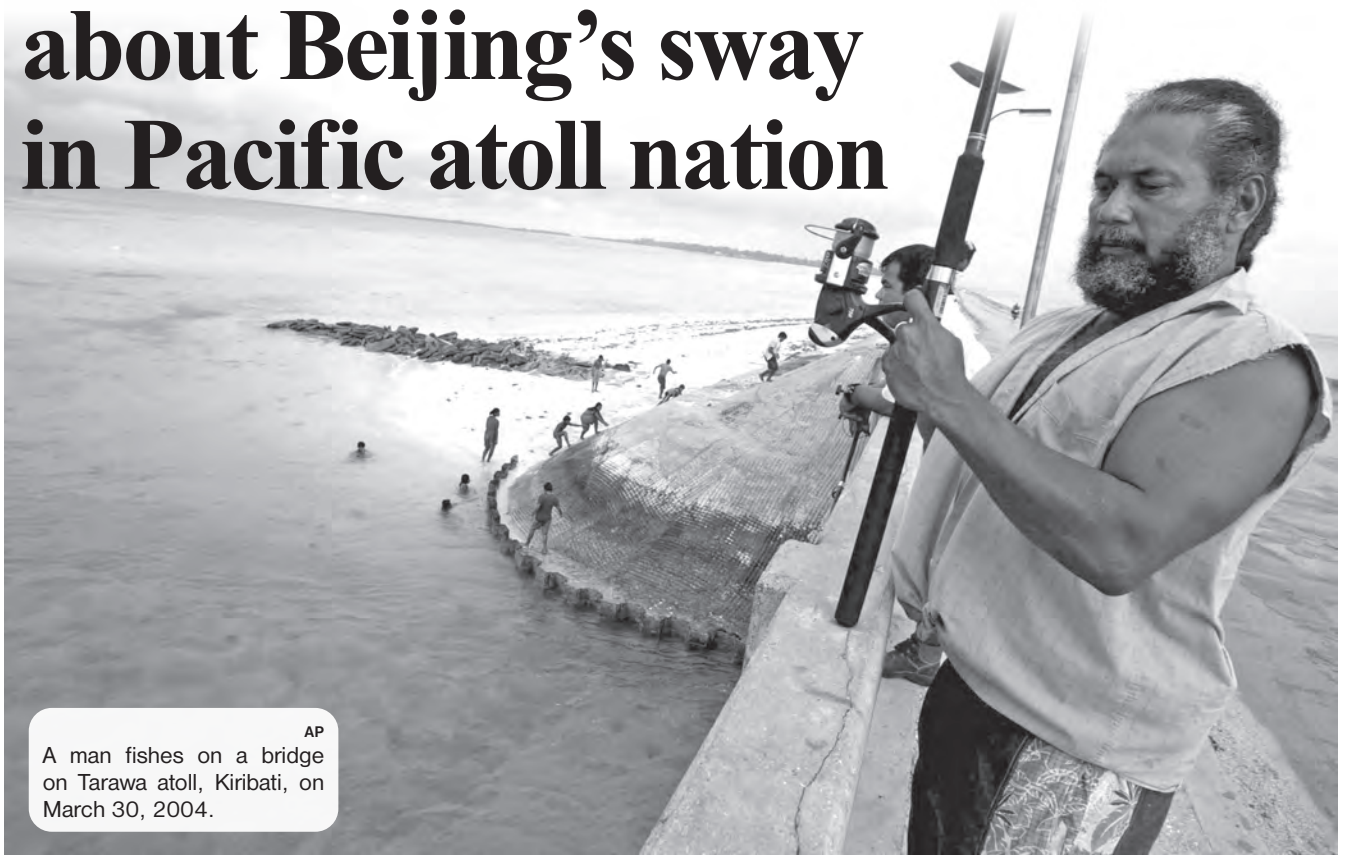
SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

An election in Kiribati provokes WESTERN ALARM about Beijing's sway in Pacific atoll nation



AP
A man fishes on a bridge on Tarawa atoll, Kiribati, on March 30, 2004.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—People in Kiribati went to the polls on Wednesday for the first round of voting in a national election expected to serve as a referendum on rising living costs and the government's stronger ties with China.

A second round of voting is scheduled on Aug. 19 for all parliamentary seats that are not won by a majority vote on Wednesday. Results from the first round are expected Thursday.

The nation of low-lying atolls with 120,000 people is one of the most threatened in the world by rising sea levels and does not command the resource wealth or tourism branding of other Pacific islands. But its proximity to Hawaii and its huge ocean expanse have bolstered its strategic importance and provoked an influence skirmish between Western powers and Beijing.

The Kiribati government switched its allegiance from pro-Taiwan to pro-Beijing in 2019, citing its national interest and joining several other Pacific nations that have severed diplomatic ties with Taipei since 2016.

Kiribati is one of the most aid-dependent nations in the world and is rated at high risk of external debt distress by the International Monetary Fund. Its existence is threatened by coastal erosion and rising seas that have contaminated drinking water and driven much of the population onto the most populous island, South Tarawa.

Analysts say few details about the campaigning or this week's vote have appeared online and there are few English-language news sources in the country. The blocked or delayed entry of Australian officials to Kiribati and a stalled flow of information between the governments in recent years have prompted anxiety in Canberra about the scale of Beijing's influence.

"A lot of countries in the region are really trying to find their place with a lot of geostrategic competition," said Blake Johnson, a senior analyst at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute. Kiribati has "taken the approach of keeping its cards pretty close" and is not divulging details "that might impact the way those relationships are trending," he said.

The election will decide 44 of the 45 seats in Parliament but not the Kiribati presidency, which is due to be resolved in October. A public vote will be held to choose the leader from three or four candidates selected from among those elected this month.

The incumbent, Taneti Maamau, who has been in office since 2016, is expected to seek another term as leader if returned to his seat.

The increased cost of living, scarce medicine supplies and fuel shortages are expected to be central issues for voters. Analysts say voters are likely to reward the incumbent government for the introduction of universal unemployment benefits and increased subsidies for copra, or dried coconut flesh.

"People are taking time to link that the challenges they're facing are a result of the policies that are in place," Rimon Rimon, an independent journalist in Kiribati, said by phone. He said the prospect of incumbents being reelected was "quite strong at the moment."

The question of how much influence Beijing has is not a simple one. Dismay from Australia, New Zealand and the United States about China's sway is not always specific or well-articulated and has often caused frustration in the Pacific, Johnson said.

He said Australia's worries include reports that Beijing has trained and equipped Kiribati police officers, and the suspension of foreign judges serving in the island nation.

"Interestingly, these Western countries maintain their own connections with China, but when small island states do the same, it suddenly raises concerns," said Takuia Uakeia, director of the Kiribati campus of the University of the South Pacific. "This is well understood by the people."

Rimon, the journalist, said policy shifts since Kiribati switched to a pro-Beijing stance include a requirement that researchers and reporters apply for permits for filming and a more "hardline" approach to information access. The government remains very secretive about the content of 10 agreements signed between Kiribati and China in 2022, he added.

Voters who spoke by phone on Wednesday said a list of polling places had only been published by the government on Tuesday and there had been uncertainty before voting opened about whether identification cards were required to vote.

Political parties are loose groups in Kiribati, and lawmakers do not confirm their allegiance until elected to office. Kiribati was traditionally a society governed by consensus, with strong democratic principles and respect for its constitution, but the contest for foreign influence had sowed divisions, Rimon said.

"How we're seeing things in terms of donors and cooperation with partners is that we're not sure how this is helping us that they're competing in this sense," he said.

There are 115 candidates contesting the election, including 18 women. Candidates were unopposed for four seats—three of them incumbent lawmakers from the governing Tobwaan Kiribati Party, according to Radio New Zealand.

AP
A boy scavenges for useful items at Red Beach dump on Tarawa atoll, Kiribati, on March 30, 2004.

AP
A Kiribati dancer raises her arms as she welcomes the first sunrise of the new year on Millennium Island, Kiribati, on Jan. 1, 2000.

Radewagen highlights opportunity for Pacific women entrepreneurs from neighboring countries

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) is highlighting a training, mentoring, and business matchmaking opportunity for Pacific women entrepreneurs from neighboring Pacific Islands countries.

Radewagen

The World Intellectual Property Organization has put out a call for applications, due Sept. 30 of this year, for the next cycle of the WIPO Training, Mentoring, and Matchmaking Program on Intellectual Property for Women Entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

This opportunity is available to 24 women entrepreneurs from Fiji, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tongo, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Training in a practical workshop on topics such as intellectual property rights, business modeling and digital storytelling, will take place in Sydney, Australia, from March 24 to 28, 2025, followed by a year of mentoring and business matchmaking.

"I'm happy to help get the word out to women entrepreneurs throughout the Pacific Islands that could benefit from this program, including those in our closest neighbor Samoa and the three states in free association with the U.S.," said Radewagen. "While this specific program is not for the U.S. territories, we support each other in pursuit of economic growth efforts throughout the islands, and uplifting entrepreneurs can benefit the whole region."

For information, visit here and for the WIPO learning center, visit https://welc.wipo.int/. ***(PR)***

PARS general membership meeting this Saturday

TAMUNING, Guam—The Pacific Association for Radiation Survivors will host its annual general membership meeting on Saturday, Aug. 17, 2024 at the Tamuning Senior Citizen Center from 9am to 1pm. The meeting is open to the public.

PARS is a 20-year-old nonprofit organization that has been advocating since its inception for the inclusion of Guam as a downwinder area under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act presently in accordance with Senator Josh Hawyley RECA Bill.

PARS president Robert N. Celestial discovered the unclassified documents and pursued the affidavit from Lt. Schreiber. After a congressionally mandated investigation, the National Academies of Science concluded in a 2002 published report that Guam should be deemed qualified for RECA as "downwinders" radiation exposure.

Please join PARS if you would like to learn about PARS recent advocacy efforts toward RECA compensation for Guam.

Registration for the PARS general membership meeting for members and nonmembers can be done on-site at the Tamuning Senior Citizens Center or online with the following link: https://forms.gle/vDqK1jWdFohcaFgt7. ***(PR)***

Business

Dolphin Restaurant offers lunch buffet with breathtaking view

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dolphin Restaurant can comfortably sit 70 customers and the lunch buffet is available only on Fridays and Saturdays from 11:30am to 2pm.

Dolphin Restaurant atop the 11th floor of Grandvrio Resort Saipan's Chrystal Tower offers a lunch buffet with the island's best view of the Saipan lagoon every Friday and Saturday.

F&B assistant manager Corazon Barrios said they started their lunch buffet on the crown jewel of the property last May 3 to give tourists and locals alike a dining experience to remember, while feasting not only on the dishes expertly prepared by their chefs, but also the mesmerizing vista of the Philippine Sea fronting the Grandvrio Resort beachside.

Much more, Barrios said customers can have the best of both worlds—terrific food and one-of-a-kind ambience—without breaking the bank.

"Even though the hotel industry is suffering due to inflation and the economic slowdown, we are keeping our lunch buffet affordable without compromising the quality of the food," she said.

Barrios said some of the usual and popular items in Dolphin Restaurant's lunch buffet spread are their appetizers like spicy tuna roll, ahi poke, local chicken kelaguen, and crispy wonton crab meat salad. For the main entrees, their most popular items are the steamed fish, short ribs, baby back ribs, and chicken marsala. Assorted fruits, pastries, and ice cream are the usual desserts.

Since launching their lunch buffet more than three months ago, Barrios is happy to say that it's been a great success.

"The local community has been very accepting with regard to our new lunch buffet at Dolphin Restaurant. Actually, we have received numerous reservations since opening day and we hope that the community will continue to show their support," she said.

MARK RABAGO

The iconic entrance to Dolphin Restaurant atop the 11th floor of Grandvrio Resort Saipan's Chrystal Tower in Garapan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dolphin Restaurant's lunch buffet's appetizers usually include spicy tuna roll, ahi poke, local chicken kelaguen, and crispy wonton crab meat salad.

Dolphin Restaurant can comfortably sit 70 customers and the lunch buffet is available only on Fridays and Saturdays from 11:30am to 2pm. It costs $22 for adults and $11 for children 4-11 years old. They also have an ongoing promotion were a party of six only have to pay for five buffet lunches. Guests at Dolphin Restaurant can also use Grandvrio Resort's swimming pool for only $5 instead of the usual $10 usage fee.

Those not really pining for a buffet, can still try out their very popular bento box offerings, according to Barrios.

"There are a couple of items that are quite popular and highly requested during our lunch hour like our bento box. So, while we have the lunch buffet, we also are serving ala carte at the same day of our lunch buffet," she said.

Grandvrio Resort's Pool Bar is also currently offering a Happy Hour 5pm-7pm discount of 20% on food and individual drinks.

"All walk-in guest will also have access to our pool for just $5 with a purchase of a drink. There are also different kinds of promotions we offer which changes depending on the season. Discount-wise, we do offer a 10% for military and government staff, with valid ID," said Barrios.

For more information on Grandvrio Resort's lunch buffet and other promotions, call (670) 234-6495 or go to their Facebook page.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

One of the more popular entrees in Dolphin Restaurant's lunch buffet are the short ribs.

Japan's economy grew last quarter on healthy consumer spending, business investment

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's economy grew at an annual rate of 3.1% in the April-June period, rebounding from the contraction in the previous quarter, government data showed Thursday.

The world's fourth largest economy grew 0.8% in the fiscal first quarter, according to the Cabinet Office.

Seasonally adjusted gross domestic product, or GDP, measures the value of a nation's products and services. The annual rate shows how much the economy would have grown or contracted, if the quarterly rate had continued for a year.

Domestic demand grew a robust 3.5% from the previous quarter on the back of healthy household consumption and private sector investments, as well as government investments. Exports grew a booming 5.9%.

Japan's GDP shrank 0.6% in January-March on quarter, after eking out 0.1% growth in October-December last year. Economic growth went back and forth between such periods of contraction and weak expansion for the past year.

"Today's GDP data signal that the virtuous cycle between income and spending has become more pronounced but uncertainty surrounding macro policies has heightened," said Robert Carnell, regional head of research Asia-Pacific at ING Economics.

Carnell was pointing to the announcement Wednesday by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida that he won't seek reelection as head of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. Whoever replaces him as the party leader in the September vote will become prime minister since the party controls parliament.

"There is no strong contender to take over Kishida's role, making it difficult to estimate the policy direction of the next government," Carnell said.

The Liberal Democrats have governed Japan almost the entire postwar period and are credited with guiding the nation's rise as an economic power. But voters are increasingly worried about Japan's declining clout.

Japan is not facing the inflationary pressures seen in parts of the U.S. and other developed nations. Price rises have stood lately at about 3% for Japan, which underwent years of deflation, or a continuous cascading down of prices that underlines a fragile economy.

The Bank of Japan, which kept interest rates at zero or below zero for years, has finally begun to raise rates. Some analysts say the move is part of the various factors behind the recent wild gyrations in global stock markets. The fluctuations have somewhat quieted in recent sessions.

"We now think the Bank of Japan will take a more cautious approach to interest rate hikes due to the recent market turbulence following the last meeting, which saw a sharp unwinding of the carry trade," said a report from BMI, a unit of Fitch Solutions.

China's economic recovery dragged down by property slump, weak consumption in July

BEIJING (AP)—A continued property crisis and weak consumption dragged on China's economic recovery in July, according to data released Thursday by the National Bureau of Statistics.

Unemployment rose for the first time since February, clocking in at 5.2%, compared to 5% in June.

Industrial production also rose more slowly than the previous month, showing a 5.1% year-on-year increase in July, compared to a 5.3% rise in June.

Retail sales grew slightly more than analysts had expected, rising 2.7% year-on-year in July, compared to 2% in June.

Statistics bureau spokesperson Liu Aihua said the recovery in consumption will be further consolidated given recent government policies to boost consumer spending.

Beijing announced plans last month to use 150 billion yuan ($20.9 billion) in government debt to finance trade-ins for consumer goods such as appliances and cars to stimulate spending.

Consumption contributed around 60% of China's economic growth in the first half of the year and is expected to assume an even bigger role in supporting the world's second-largest economy. Exports, traditionally China's strongest engine for economic growth, are dampened by frictions with the United States and other Western countries.

Regarding urban unemployment—a ticklish problem for the ruling Communist Party—Liu said the 0.2 percentage-point rise over the previous month was due to the impact of the graduation season.

Investment in real estate dropped 10.2% year-on-year in the first seven months of the year, after decreasing 10.1% in the January-June period.

A prolonged slump in China's property market after regulators cracked down on excessive borrowing by developers unleashed a chain reaction that has pulled housing sales and prices lower and hit many other parts of the economy, such as construction, building materials and home appliances.

Life & Style

‘Jackpot!’ has a winning star in Awkwafina but never pays off

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

This image released by Prime Video shows Awkwafina in a scene from “Jackpot!” AP

Finally, a movie for everyone who read Shirley Jackson’s “The Lottery” and wished it had been a comedy.

Paul Feig’s “Jackpot!” is a farcical twist on an old story that, if it doesn’t remind people of Jackson’s short story will surely sound familiar to those who enjoyed “The Purge” and its sequels. In a near-future California, buying a lottery ticket enters you a chance to win billions. But there’s a catch.

Everyone else is free to try to kill the winner and take the prizemoney. The “winner” has until sundown to survive and keep their money. The only rule: No guns. Hovering drones keep an eye on winners, helping violent mobs find their way to him or her. This state-sponsored Hunger Game is the new low for a government depleted of funds. Meanwhile, the local TV news chipperly announces a few new billionaires every day.

My principle disappointment with “Jackpot!” is that they didn’t go with a title like “Mega Murders” or its original name: “Grand Theft Lotto.” This is a very high concept for a comedy, one that Feig and screenwriter Rob Yescombe lean into to craft a mildly entertaining, streaming-only comedy that’s only a touch less disposable than a losing Powerball ticket.

Mostly, “Jackpot!” is an action-comedy vehicle that pairs Awkwafina and John Cena for a romp through a few clever economic inequality gags and a lot of cartoonish mayhem. At the least, it’s a more satirical, silly take on a dystopian genre that usually receives more somber treatments. “Mockingjay—Part 1” certainly never had John Cena trying to stomp out a groin on fire.

“Jackpot!,” which debuts Thursday on Prime Video, stars Awkwafina as Katie Kim, a former child actor who, out of midlife desperation, has returned to Los Angeles in 2030 to try to break back into the movie business. A Hollywood where half the town is out for blood is, of course, not such a far-fetched, futuristic concept. That backdrop of raging competitiveness is a running gag in “Jackpot!” Katie is at an audition when she’s announced as the lottery winner, immediately sending the other auditioning actors after her head.

As the quickly forming mob closes in on Katie, a pinstripe suit-clad man comes to the rescue, pledging to protect her for a 10% fee. Noel Cassidy (John Cena) is his name, and, as the two make their getaway, a buddy comedy ensues. Aside from the main task of staying alive, the abiding tension of the movie is how much Katie can trust Noel, and why this very sincere special agent is so dedicated to saving lives. Not only does Noel keep Katie from harm, he makes sure to put a helmet on anyone’s head before kicking them out of a moving car.

Spain to investigate unauthorized Katy Perry music video in a protected natural area

Perry

MADRID (AP)—In her new music video, Katy Perry pretends to be one of the thousands of tourists having the time of their lives on Spain’s Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean. But some parts, filmed in a protected natural enclave, could get her into trouble.

The regional government is investigating the video for her latest song, “Lifetimes,” for the clips in which the 39-year-old American singer and songwriter appears jumping and running across dunes of the Ses Salines Natural Park, a protected area on the islands of Ibiza and Formentera, apparently without permission.

The images taken on the dunes of the private islet of S’Espalmador, “one of the most ecologically valuable sites on the islands” and in an area cordoned off from the public with sticks and ropes, sparked the controversy, according to local media.

The regional authorities have opened “preliminary investigation proceedings,” according to a statement released Tuesday, after the production company failed to apply for the appropriate permits. The filming wouldn’t have been an environmental offense, because this type of production can be authorized with a permit, the department of natural environment added.

The production company and Perry didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

The video, directed by Colombian-American photographer and director Matías Vasquez, Stillz, shows Perry sailing, swimming or clubbing on the islands, one of the most popular and crowded tourist resorts in the Spanish Mediterranean, especially during the summer.

Acting powerhouse Gena Rowlands dies

Rowlands

Gena Rowlands, hailed as one of the greatest actors to ever practice the craft and a guiding light in independent cinema as a star in groundbreaking movies by her director husband, John Cassavetes, and who later charmed audiences in her son’s tear-jerker “The Notebook,” has died. She was 94.

Rowlands’ death was confirmed Wednesday by representatives for her son, filmmaker Nick Cassavetes. He revealed earlier this year that his mother had Alzheimer’s disease. TMZ reported that Rowlands died Wednesday at her home in Indian Wells, California.

Operating outside the studio system, the husband-and-wife team of John Cassavetes and Rowlands created indelible portraits of working-class strivers and small-timers in such films as “A Woman Under the Influence,” “Gloria” and “Faces.”

Rowlands made 10 films across four decades with Cassavetes, including “Minnie and Moskowitz” in 1971, “Opening Night” in 1977 and “Love Streams” in 1984.

She earned two Oscar nods for two of them: 1974’s “A Woman Under the Influence,” in which she played a wife and mother cracking under the burden of domestic harmony, and “Gloria” in 1980, about a woman who helps a young boy escape the mob.

“He had a particular sympathetic interest in women and their problems in society, how they were treated and how they solved and overcame what they needed to, so all his movies have some interesting women, and you don’t need many,” she told the AP in 2015.

In addition to the Oscar nominations, Rowlands earned three Primetime Emmy Awards, one Daytime Emmy and two Golden Globes. She was awarded an honorary Academy Award in 2015 in recognition of her work and legacy in Hollywood. “You know what’s wonderful about being an actress? You don’t just live one life,” she said at the podium. “You live many lives.”

Mother makes little effort to meet people after move

DEAR ABBY: My mother, who is 69, recently moved close to where my wife and I live to be near us as she ages. On the whole, this has been great for all of us. Mom is in good health and still very active. She walks every day and takes care of her house and garden. We see her often.

The problem is, she is very resistant to meeting new people or going out without us. She says she will never find friends as good as the ones she left behind, so it’s not worth trying. We encouraged her to join the senior center, which she did, but she quit after a month, saying the people there are “too old.”

I took her to church, but after the second Sunday, she announced she’s not going back. My wife tried to get her to join a club or volunteer at our kids’ school, but Mom said she doesn’t like to be on a schedule. Several neighbors invited her over, but she always makes excuses to decline. I think they have stopped asking.

Because she’s independent, this isn’t a big deal now. But I’m worried that if she doesn’t get to know people while she’s still active, we’ll be her only source of support as she ages.

You often ask if older parents are experiencing a change of personality caused by old age or dementia, and I don’t think this is the case here. Mom’s always been shy. Now she’s shy and stubborn. What are my options?

LOOKING OUT FOR MOM IN CHICAGO

DEAR LOOKING OUT: Among my first thoughts is that your mother isn’t the independent person you described, and she’s setting herself up to be completely dependent upon you and your wife for social interaction. It isn’t healthy for ANY of you.

Before she isolates herself further than she already has, sit her down and tell her directly that you do not want this to happen and that she MUST make more of an effort to interact with others. While relationships are not interchangeable, she once had a social life, and she will again IF she makes an effort.

If her shyness prevents her from easily conversing with strangers, suggest that she volunteer at an animal shelter. That way she will be out of the house, interacting with others and not solely dependent on you.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My friend “Sally” has been dating this guy for 10 years. Their relationship has been rocky from the beginning, and he doesn’t seem to want to commit. He acts like he doesn’t want to even BE with her, spending time only when it’s convenient for him.

He has put Sally through a lot. He was involved with this other woman. He said it was because she knew some things about him and was holding it against him and he couldn’t tell my friend. I think he’s a narcissist. What advice can you give her?

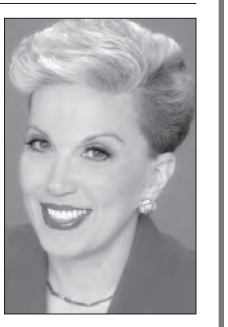
ASKING FOR A FRIEND

DEAR ASKING: Knowing that the most unwanted advice is that which is unasked for, I would wait until the next time Sally complains about the treatment this man has given her for the last 10 years. Then I would suggest that she talk with a licensed mental health professional about how to rebuild her self-esteem.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

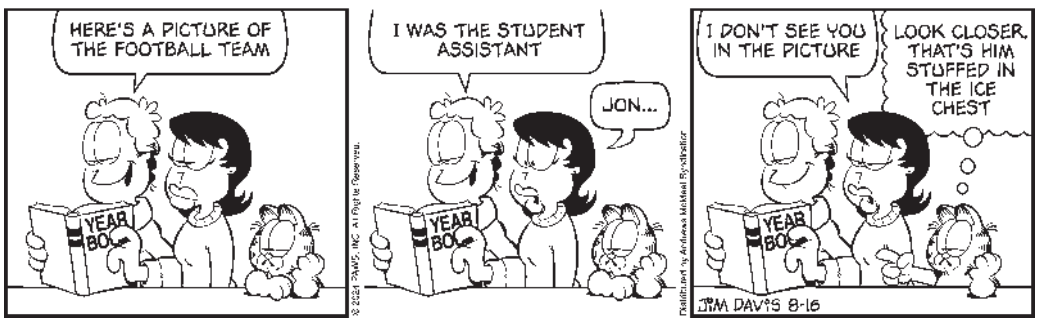
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


HERE'S A PICTURE OF THE FOOTBALL TEAM
I WAS THE STUDENT ASSISTANT
JON...
I DON'T SEE YOU IN THE PICTURE
LOOK CLOSER. THAT'S HIM STUFFED IN THE ICE CHEST
JIM DAVIS 8-16

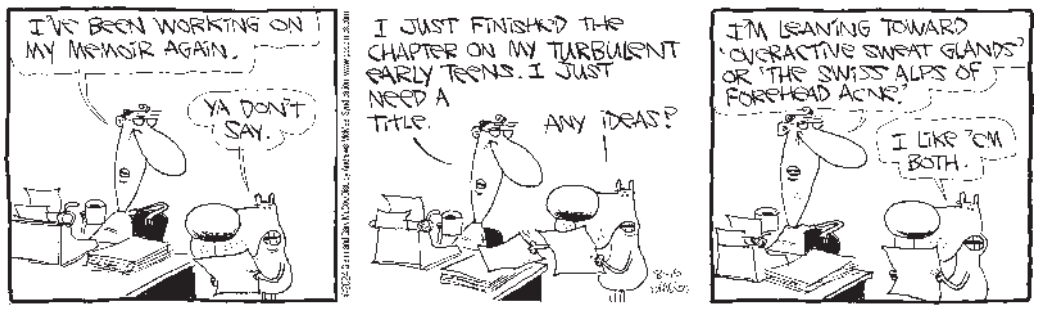
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

LOOK AT THAT BUG.
OH, WOW.
IT'S GOT A SWAGGER. RIGHT?
NO DOUBT. THAT BUG IS STRUTTING.
HE'S A BUG ABOUT TOWN.
100%. BIG BUG ON CAMPUS.
NOW HE JUST SEEMS ARROGANT.
TOO BIG FOR HIS BRITCHES. LET'S SQUISH HIM.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'VE BEEN WORKING ON MY MEMOIR AGAIN.
YA DON'T SAY.
I JUST FINISHED THE CHAPTER ON MY TURBULENT EARLY TEENS. I JUST NEED A TITLE.
ANY IDEAS?
I'M LEANING TOWARD 'OVERACTIVE SWEAT GLANDS' OR 'THE SWISS ALPS OF FOREHEAD ACNE.'
I LIKE 'EM BOTH.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

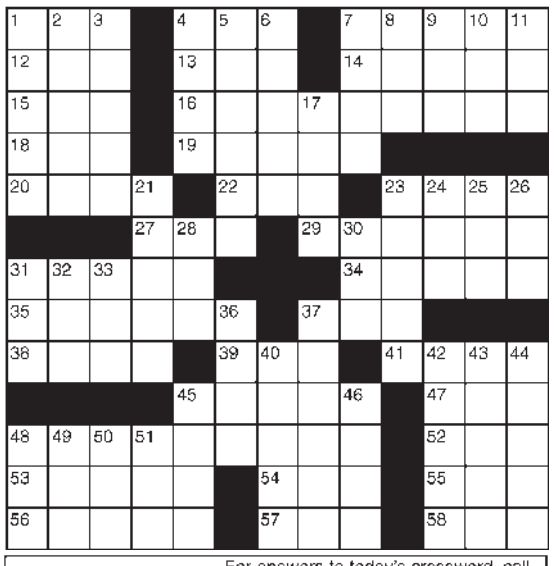
ACROSS
1 Uncle, to Pedro
4 St. with a panhandle
7 Seizes
12 Pt. of speech
13 Vegas opener
14 Painter's stand
15 Salonga of "Miss Saigon"
16 Arm or leg
18 Dig in
19 Bo of "10"
20 Downhill racer
22 — Salvador
23 Slender
27 "Guinness Book" suffix
29 Lengthen
31 Early synthesizers
34 Cries from sties
35 Living
37 MSN rival
38 Youngsters
39 Guffaw syllable
41 Dalai —
45 Party beverage
47 Garfield, for one
48 Hand over, in a way
52 Vat
53 Defy authority
54 Stannum
55 — pro nobis
56 Indian tea region
57 Rm. coolers
58 D.C. baseballer

DOWN
1 Yarns
2 Perfect
3 Egg-shaped
4 Skedaddled
5 Least strict
6 "Ad —" (2019 sci-fi film)
7 Tech whiz
8 Aries
9 "— was saying ..."
10 Wager
11 Devious
17 Actress Russo
21 Painter of ballerinas
23 Unmoving
24 Novelist Deighton
25 Pen filler
26 ER workers
28 Tax form ID
30 Tic-tac-toe loser
31 Bumped into
32 Kitchen gadget brand
33 Mel of Coopers-town
36 Dull sound of impact
37 Polar
40 "Sweet Love" singer Baker
42 Take, as advice
43 Tierney of "The Affair"
44 Facing the pitcher
45 Tropical tree
46 Coop group
48 Time line period
49 Ballot marks
50 "Conan" channel
51 "Angie" actor

Solution time: 25 mins.

F	I	B	■	C	A	P	S	■	C	L	E	F
A	M	O	■	E	L	I	N	■	R	O	M	A
R	O	D	M	M	A	T	E	■	E	R	I	C
■	■	M	O	E	■	T	E	R	M	I	T	E
L	I	K	I	N	G	■	H	O	O	■	■	■
I	R	F	■	T	O	S	■	F	N	D	A	T
M	A	Y	S	■	D	U	B	■	A	O	N	E
A	S	S	E	S	■	P	O	W	■	R	N	A
■	■	■	N	O	M	■	D	I	M	M	E	R
T	O	T	E	B	A	G	■	C	A	R	■	■
S	W	A	G	■	D	A	R	K	R	O	O	M
P	I	I	A	■	A	B	B	L	■	O	D	D
S	E	A	L	■	M	E	I	R	■	M	E	X

Yesterday's answer 8-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cameron Monaghan, 31; Steve Carell, 62; Angela Bassett, 66; Madonna, 66.

Happy Birthday: Pay attention to how you present yourself and your skills this year. Manufacture the persona you want others to acknowledge, and maintain consistency. Everything will fall into place. A lack of confidence or inability to believe in yourself will attract those who want to take advantage of you. Be true to yourself and build a solid base. Know your capabilities. Your numbers are 8, 13, 19, 25, 27, 38, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Unleash your power and set goals. Go where the action is and participate wholeheartedly; you will make an impression and gain confidence. Expanding your connections will inspire you to take on new challenges and meet demands that catapult you toward your objective. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Keep your eyes and ears open, and you'll gain valuable information and insight into prospects that can alter your life. Refuse to let setbacks, competition or jealousy consume you when discipline, hard work and persistence will carry you to victory. Use your time and skills wisely. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Stop waiting for someone else to make the first move. Look for opportunities and follow through. Strike up a conversation with someone who can shed light on people, places and prospects of interest. Protect your investments. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* An open mind will lead to conversations with someone who inspires you. Commit to making your dreams come true. Let your gestures speak for you when it comes to love and romance. Commitment will lead to stability and a lifestyle change. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Participation in activities that get you moving will ease stress and connect you with like-minded people. Avoid making unnecessary changes because someone else does and pressures you to tag along. Think and do for yourself. Avoid joint ventures. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Separate business from pleasure. You'll find it easier to wind down if you change your environment. Pay attention to how you feel physically, emotionally and mentally. Do something that melts stress and inspires you to look and do your best. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Get up and go. Don't let laziness take over. You owe it to yourself to explore and expand your mind. An intellectual journey will broaden your awareness regarding the possibilities. It's time to reach out to people, places and pastimes that motivate you to reach for the stars. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Sit tight, plan and prepare for what's next. Don't pressure yourself or let negativity take over. Dream, research and reach out to organizations that can offer a path that makes your journey less stressful. Make a promise to yourself and follow through. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Taking short trips, getting together with friends, attending a reunion, catching up on reading or learning something that inspires and motivates you to do something unique, creative or life-changing is favored. Stop dreaming and start doing. Don't limit the possibilities. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: Take a moment to decide what's next. A day trip or meeting with someone who inspires you will impact your subsequent actions. Let your creative imagination take you on a journey that offers insight into pursuing your passion. Travel, romance and personal growth are favored. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't give up or give in when opportunity and growth await you. Get out, socialize and expose yourself to new beginnings. Don't fear change or hide from commitment. Explore your options and pursue what attracts you most. Let go of the past and whatever's holding you back.✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Review every detail, expense and possibility before committing to a change. Problems at home will require patience, discipline and expert help to ensure you minimize damage. Refuse to let your health or meaningful relationships suffer. Honesty, integrity and moderation are in your best interest. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, talkative and flexible. You are active and impressionable.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			1	2			5	
		1						4
		2		8	5			1
		7	6					5
4			3			7		8
	5	8		3			6	
	9		2	6	8		3	
3					4		8	

Difficulty: ★★★★ 8/16

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	9	4	3	7	5	6	1	2
2	1	6	9	4	8	3	5	7
7	3	5	6	2	1	8	9	4
6	5	2	1	3	7	9	4	8
1	8	7	4	9	2	5	6	3
3	4	9	5	8	6	7	2	1
9	6	8	2	1	3	4	7	5
5	7	1	8	6	4	2	3	9
4	2	3	7	5	9	1	8	6

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/15

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

DESIGNING LOGOS Solution: 7 letters

F	E	E	D	B	A	C	K	L	A	T	I	G	I	D
A	O	T	O	H	P	R	E	M	U	S	N	O	C	I
S	U	R	T	I	D	E	M	B	L	E	M	R	O	S
H	T	N	M	V	I	S	U	A	L	O	E	E	M	T
I	L	I	I	A	W	E	Y	B	T	A	R	C	P	I
O	I	T	N	Q	T	O	S	I	T	M	U	O	A	N
N	N	E	D	S	U	S	F	E	I	O	T	G	N	C
O	E	K	R	T	P	E	S	T	T	T	C	N	Y	T
I	G	R	A	P	H	I	C	E	L	T	I	I	R	I
T	A	A	W	D	T	U	R	E	N	O	P	Z	O	M
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Royals beat the Twins to avoid the series sweep

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Bobby Witt Jr. homered on a pitch outside the strike zone for the fourth time this season and Paul DeJong finished a triple short of the cycle, helping the Kansas City Royals beat the Minnesota Twins 4-1 Wednesday to avoid a series sweep.

Witt homered into the left-center bullpen on a shoulder-high, full-count fastball from Louie Varland (0-5) in the third inning, putting the Royals ahead 2-0 with his 24th home run this season. The pitch was 4.07 feet above the ground, the highest hit by a Kansas City player for a home run since pitch tracking started in 2008, according to MLB Statcast.

Witt leads the major leagues with a .349 average.

DeJong doubled in the second inning and scored on Kyle Isbel's groundout, singled in the fourth and homered in the sixth. DeJong reached 20 homers for the first time since hitting a career-high 30 for St. Louis in 2019, when he was an All-Star.

Cole Ragans (10-7) struck out eight and walked none in seven innings, allowing one run and five hits. He has won three straight starts for the first time as a major leaguer.

AP

Kansas City Royals pinch runner Maikel Garcia steals second base against Minnesota Twins second baseman Kyle Farmer during the seventh inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2024, in Minneapolis.

PADRES 8, PIRATES 2

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Martín Pérez beat his old team in his first victory since San Diego acquired him at the trade deadline, and the Padres defeated Pittsburgh for their 19th win in 22 games.

Jake Cronenworth and David Peralta homered for the Padres, who swept six games from the Pirates this season. San Diego (69-53) improved to a season-high 16 games over .500, sweeping the three-game series and winning eight series in a row for the first time since 2007.

Pittsburgh has lost 10 consecutive games for the first time since June 13-22 last year. The Pirates are 1-12 since July 31, the day after the trade deadline.

DIAMONDBACKS 11, ROCKIES 4

PHOENIX (AP)—Eugenio Suárez hit a grand slam and finished with five RBIs, Joc Pederson drove in two early runs and Arizona won their sixth straight game by beating Colorado.

Arizona swept the three-game series and has won 18 of 21, rocketing into postseason contention with its longest winning streak since last August. Following a 6-1 homestand, the NL champions go on a nine-game trip to Tampa Bay, Miami and Boston.

Suárez had three hits, driving the first pitch he saw from Riley Pint into the left-center seats for a 10-3 lead in the sixth and his fourth career slam.

Arizona took a 4-0 lead in the first, partly thanks to shoddy Rockies defense, and dropped Colorado to an NL-worst 17-46 on the road.

ORIOLES 4, NATIONALS 1

BALTIMORE (AP)—Gunnar Henderson hit a two-run homer in the first, Dean Kremer stopped a four-start losing streak and Baltimore salvaged a split of their two-game series against Washington.

Kremer (5-9) outdueled DJ Herz (2-5) in a sharply pitched game, allowing a run and five hits over six innings. Yennier Cano and Cionel Pérez each worked a perfect inning of relief, and Seranthony Domínguez followed with a hitless ninth for his second save since joining the Orioles before the trade deadline.

Herz permitted two runs and four hits in six innings.

GUARDIANS 6, CUBS 1

CLEVELAND (AP)—Alex Cobb got his first win in nearly a year and Andrés Giménez drove in three runs, sending the American League-leading Cleveland to a victory over the Chicago Cubs.

José Ramírez, Josh Naylor and Will Brennan also had RBIs for Cleveland, which swept the three-game series and extended its winning streak to five. The Guardians are 72-49 and have the best home record in the majors at 38-20.

Cobb (1-1) allowed one run and three hits in 5 2/3 innings with three strikeouts and two walks for his first win since a one-hitter for San Francisco against Cincinnati last Aug. 29. The 36-year-old right-hander had hip surgery last Oct. 31, was traded to Cleveland on July 30 and lost his Guardians debut at Minnesota on Aug. 9.

Jameson Taillon (8-7) allowed four runs in six innings as the Cubs lost their third straight after winning four in a row. He gave up two runs in both the fourth and fifth innings.

REDS 9, CARDINALS 2

CINCINNATI (AP)—Jonathan India homered twice and drove in four runs, TJ Friedl had two solo shots on his 29th birthday and Cincinnati completed a three-game sweep of St. Louis.

Friedl and Barry Larkin—on April 28, 1994—are the only Reds with multihomer games on their birthday.

Tyler Stephenson also homered to help the Reds sweep a three-game series for the first time since July 2-4 at the New York Yankees.

The Reds have won their fourth straight—the first time that's happened since they strung together seven in a row in early June—and moved into a tie with St. Louis for second place in the NL Central.

On a bullpen night for Cincinnati, six pitchers combined to allow two runs on 10 hits. Sam Moll (3-1) pitched a scoreless third for the victory.

PHILLIES 9, MARLINS 5

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Kyle Schwarber quieted the boo birds with his seventh career grand slam, shaking Philadelphia out of their midsummer malaise and leading them to a victory over Miami.

Trying to fight their way out of a rut, the Phillies got a needed win, a night after they suffered a four-hit shutout loss to one of the worst teams in baseball. Once the winningest team in baseball, the Phillies needed Schwarber's go-ahead slam to help snap a four-game losing streak and they won for just the eighth time in 24 games since the All-Star break.

ASTROS 2, RAYS 1, 10 INNINGS

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Mauricio Dubón drove in the go-ahead run with a 10th-inning single, closer Josh Hader worked two scoreless innings and Houston won their season-high eighth straight game by beating Tampa Bay.

Pedro León advanced from second to third on Jeremy Peña's fly to deep center off Garrett Cleavinger (7-3) starting the 10th. Zach Dezenzo struck out, Jake Meyers and Dubón got Houston's second hit of the game. The Rays also had two hits.

Hader (5-6) struck out three as Houston ended an 8-1 trip.

Tampa Bay has lost seven of nine and dropped to 59-61.

RANGERS 9, RED SOX 7, 10 INNINGS

BOSTON (AP)—Wyatt Langford hit a tying three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning and Jonah Heim had a two-run homer in the 10th to lead Texas to a win over Boston.

Heim's homer came on the first pitch from Boston reliever Zach Kelly (4-2), scoring automatic runner Ezequiel Duran.

Langford's seventh homer of the season came off Josh Winckowski, who opened the ninth inning by allowing consecutive singles to Corey Seager and Josh Smith, who scored on Langford's blast.

Matt Festa (1-1) earned the win, with Kirby Yates recording his 21st save of the season with a scoreless 10th.

TIGERS 3, MARINERS 2, 10 INNINGS

DETROIT (AP)—Akil Baddoo's pinch-hit double in the 10th inning gave Detroit a come-from-behind win over Seattle.

The teams were playing for the fifth time in eight days. The Tigers won two of three in Seattle and beat the Mariners 15-1 on Tuesday night.

Detroit trailed 2-0 with two out in the bottom of the eighth, but Matt Vierling doubled off Yimi Garcia and Kerry Carpenter hit his third homer in two games to tie the score. Carpenter, who came off the injured list before Tuesday's game, had struck out in his first three at-bats.

Tyler Holton (5-1) held Seattle scoreless in the top of the 10th and Collin Snider (2-2) walked Justyn-Henry Malloy to start the bottom of the inning. Zach McKinstry struck out trying to bunt, but Baddoo hit for Jake Rogers and hit a deep fly ball over the head of Victor Robles to win the game.

METS 9, ATHLETICS 1

NEW YORK (AP)—Pete Alonso had four hits that included a fourth-inning homer and three RBIs to lead the New York Mets over Oakland, stopping a four-game losing streak.

Francisco Lindor had two hits and two RBIs while Mark Vientos had a go-ahead, run-scoring double for the Mets, who were outscored 31-5 in their previous four games. Lindor's third-inning homer made him the 17th player to hit 100th for the Mets, who had dropped two games behind Atlanta for the last NL wild card.

YANKEES 10, WHITE SOX 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Aaron Judge reached 300 home runs faster than any other player, going deep in the New York Yankees' win over the Chicago White Sox.

Judge hit that mark in his 955th game and 3,431st at-bat with a three-run drive in the eighth inning.. The six-time All-Star and 2022 American League MVP drove a 3-0 up-and-in sinker Chad Kuhl into the White Sox bullpen in left for his major league-leading 43rd homer.

Ralph Kiner reached 300 homers in his 1,087th game, and Babe Ruth did in his 3,831st at-bat.

Soto had homered in the first inning off Davis Martin, his fourth in two games and 34th this season.

Austin Wells followed Judge's drive with one of his own, the eighth time this season New York hit back-to-back homers. He also capped a three-run seventh by driving in two with a single that put the Yankees on top 4-2.

BREWERS 5, DODGERS 4

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Devin Williams retired Shohei Ohtani, Mookie Betts and Freddie Freeman in order in the ninth inning to preserve a Milwaukee victory over Los Angeles that snapped the Dodgers' five-game winning streak.

The Brewers got only four hits but capitalized on three Dodgers errors to end a three-game skid, with Williams earning his second save in as many opportunities. Milwaukee is the only major league team that hasn't lost at least four in a row at some point this season.

BLUE JAYS 9, ANGELS 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Daulton Varsho hit a three-run home run, Jose Berrios dominated over seven innings and Toronto finished off a three-game sweep of the Los Angeles Angels.

Ernie Clement and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. each hit a two-run home run and Berrios (11-9) gave up one run on two hits with a walk and five strikeouts as the Blue Jays pulled off their third series sweep of the season and second on the road.

Varsho and Guerrero both had three hits and three RBIs, while Clement added a triple.

Matt Thaiss hit a home run for the Angels, who are 1-5 since winning consecutive series against the New York Mets and New York Yankees. Thaiss had two of the Angels' three hits.

BRAVES 13, GIANTS 2

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Michael Harris hit a grand slam in his first at-bat after missing nearly two months because of a hamstring injury, helping Atlanta rout San Francisco.

Activated from the injured list before the game, Harris crushed an 0-1 curveball from Robbie Ray (2-2) into McCovey Cove for his first career grand slam and Atlanta's fourth of the season.

Grant Holmes (1-0) had six strikeouts in seven innings in his first career victory. The 28-year-old rookie allowed eight hits and two runs. Former Giants pitcher Luke Jackson and Jimmy Herget retired three batters each to finish the game.

Aiyuk appears at 49ers practice as spectator as 'hold in' enters 4th week

AP

San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk speaks to reporters during opening night festivities for the NFL football Super Bowl 58, in Las Vegas, Monday, Feb. 5, 2024.

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Star receiver Brandon Aiyuk was back out at San Francisco 49ers practice as a spectator as his contract hold in enters a fourth week still in search of a resolution.

Aiyuk had mostly stayed off the field the past two weeks after making waves with his boisterous handshakes with general manager John Lynch and coach Kyle Shanahan two weeks ago.

Aiyuk skipped the entire offseason program and hasn't practiced yet in training camp as he seeks either a long-term contract with San Francisco or a trade to a team that can agree with the receiver on a new deal and give the 49ers enough compensation to part with him.

Neither of those options has come to a resolution yet although an end may be getting closer with NFL Network reporting earlier this week that the Niners have a framework for a potential deal with Pittsburgh in place but are waiting to see if they can reach a deal with Aiyuk before making any trade.

Aiyuk came out to practice late in the session on Wednesday. He shook hands with Lynch and watched part of practice, chatting at times with teammates Deebo Samuel and George Kittle.

"I don't see him all the time, because I'm in camp mode. So being able to have a conversation with him is fantastic, to see how he's doing and if everything is going the way that he wants it to go," Kittle said. "Just the chance to see him is always fantastic. I love the smile on his face."

Even Aiyuk's choice of wardrobe caught his teammates' attention as he wore a red 49ers shirt.

"Wearing red for the first time, too," Kittle said. "It's crazy."

Aiyuk had been set to play on the fifth-year option worth about $14.1 million this season and wanted San Francisco to make him the latest receiver to cash in with a long-term deal. Ten receivers before Aiyuk had signed contracts worth at least $70 million already this offseason with Justin Jefferson's four-year, $140 million extension with Minnesota setting the top of the market.

Aiyuk had been a key part of San Francisco's offense last season as he formed a great connection with quarterback Brock Purdy. Aiyuk had 75 catches and a career-high 1,375 yards last season with seven touchdowns as he earned second-team All-Pro honors.

His absence would be hard to overcome if San Francisco has designs on getting back to the Super Bowl and winning it this upcoming season.

"The season hasn't started yet so we don't know how much we miss him yet," cornerback Charvarius Ward said. "I don't want to say nothing crazy but they'll figure it out, eventually for sure."

Rodgers regrets 'immunized' comment in 2021 in upcoming book

NEW YORK (AP)—Aaron Rodgers says in a soon-to-be published book that he should have handled discussing his COVID-19 immunization status differently.

The New York Jets quarterback was still with the Green Bay Packers in 2021 when he told reporters he was "immunized" against the virus—and then tested positive for COVID-19 three months later and had to be sidelined for 10 days.

Rodgers unsuccessfully appealed to the league that his homeopathic treatment regimen should qualify him as vaccinated. The four-time NFL MVP was widely criticized for not being truthful about his status.

"If there's one thing I wish could have gone different, it's that, because that's the only thing (critics) could hit me with," ESPN reported Rodgers told author Ian O'Connor for the biography, "Out Of The Darkness: The Mystery of Aaron Rodgers," which goes on sale next week.

AP

New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers is seen before the start of an NFL preseason football game between the Washington Commanders and New York Jets Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024, in East Rutherford. N.J.

ESPN said Rodgers says in the book his main reason for claiming he was "immunized" was the statement represented "the crux of my appeal."

Rodgers said at the time he was allergic to an ingredient in the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines—polyethylene glycol—and was concerned about potential adverse reactions to the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

"But if I could do it again, I would have said, (forget) the appeal. I'm just going to tell them I'm allergic to PEG," Rodgers says in the book. "I'm not getting Johnson & Johnson. I'm not going to be vaxxed."

The book, based on interviews with 250 people, including Rodgers, also delves into other aspects of the quarterback's life, including his recovery from a torn Achilles tendon after four snaps in his debut with the Jets last year, his long estrangement from his family, his introduction to using ayahuasca and details of his football playing career through college at Cal, his draft-day plunge in the first round in 2005 and his 18 seasons with the Packers.

NFL BRIEFS

Rams QB Stafford leaves practice with Cowboys early because of hamstring tightness

OXNARD, Calif. (AP)—Los Angeles Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford came out of a joint practice with the Dallas Cowboys on Wednesday early because of hamstring tightness, a team spokesman said. Stafford missed approximately the second half of the workout, but the 36-year-old remained on the sideline in pads and did not show any apparent signs of injury during or after the two-hour session. "(Stafford) operates at a world class level," offensive coordinator Mike LaFleur said. "But we know that every rep is going to be valuable for him, no matter how many plays he's had. Unfortunately, he had some tightness." Jimmy Garoppolo worked with the first-team offense in Stafford's absence, which is valuable because Garoppolo did not play in the preseason opener against the Cowboys on Sunday and is unlikely to do so in the two remaining exhibition games. Garoppolo is suspended for the first two games of the regular season for a violation of the NFL's policy on performance-enhancers. "Anytime you get those ops, particularly against a defense like this with all the players they got, is going to be valuable," LaFleur said. Stetson Bennett took Garoppolo's snaps with the backups three days after he threw four interceptions before leading a last-minute touchdown drive against the Cowboys. Coach Sean McVay said Tuesday that Bennett would need to show "more body of work" after being away from the team last season to focus on his mental health to secure the No. 2 spot behind Stafford for the games at the Detroit Lions on Sept. 8 and Arizona Cardinals the following week. "He did some good things, but we got to work on the turnovers, no doubt," LaFleur said. "But there were a lot of positives for him to be able to get out here and practice."

Lions coach Campbell says leg injury to Gibbs going to be 'fine'

ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP)—Detroit Lions running back Jahmyr Gibbs, dressed in shorts, watched training camp from the sideline on Wednesday after he left practice earlier in the week with a leg injury. As a rookie last season, Gibbs rushed for 945 yards with 10 touchdowns along with 316 receiving yards and a score. After he was sidelined with a soft tissue injury in the spring, he had been healthy during training camp. The team called it a leg injury with ESPN reporting that it's a hamstring. Coach Dan Campbell does not seem concerned about the injury status of Gibbs or rookie cornerbacks Terrion Arnold (upper body) and Ennis Rakestraw (ankle), who also were injured on Monday. "I think we're going to be fine here, I think we'll be good," Campbell said in a radio interview on Wednesday, without offering specifics on the injuries. Arnold, a first-round draft pick, has impressed in camp and has lined up mostly with the starters during drills. On Wednesday, he worked apart from the team running on a grassy hill near the practice field. Defensive coordinator Aaron Glenn could not say if he'll be ready for the season opener on Sept. 8 against the Los Angeles Rams. "We've seen enough, but he's not where he needs to be. He needs a lot of improvement to do," Glenn said. "Once he gets back from his injury he has to get out there and grind and continue to work." Backup quarterback Hendon Hooker, who suffered a concussion in Thursday's preseason loss at the Giants, was back at practice on Wednesday. Campbell said there's a "good chance" he'll be able to play the preseason game on Saturday at Kansas City. "It's frustrating because I want to play so bad after a year sitting out. Not being able to go was the worst part about it, other than that I felt really good and wasn't too scared," Hendon said on Wednesday. Hookier and Nate Sudfeld are competing for the No. 2 quarterback spot behind Jared Goff.

HANMI Charity Classic Golf Classic sold out

HANMI

IT&E senior manager Janice Tenorio, far right, donates an iPhone 14 on Aug. 14, 2024, to the 22nd Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament set for Aug. 24, 2024, at Coral Ocean Resort Saipan. From left, IT&E Universal Service representative Midcat Tipingeni, tournament committee member William Retardo, tournament committee chair Das Krishnan, tournament committee members Loida Sabanal, Julie Litulu-

It's a full house for the 22nd Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament on Aug. 24, 2024 with organizers announcing the tournament has sold out.

Registration is now closed for the tournament at 144 players.

"Once again, our players have pulled this year through to help us achieve another early sell-out of the HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament, and we couldn't be more grateful," said tournament committee chair Das Krishnan. "In particular, we know it's tough times and we appreciate all the donations—cash and in-kind—from those sponsors joining us this year. Looking forward to great day of golf on Aug. 24!"

Hole-in-one prizes for the tournament include a 2024 Nissan Sentra from Joeten Motors, a 2024 Toyota Tacoma from Atkins Kroll Saipan, $10,000 cash from Pacifica Insurance, and $5,000 cash from Island Training Solutions.

Presidential Suite Sponsors are TSL Foundation, Marianas Visitors Authority, and Johnny's Bar. Deluxe Sponsor is DOCOMO Pacific. Superior Sponsor are Tinian Mayor's Office and Bridge Capital LLC. VIP Sponsors are Chong's Corp., Wushin Corp., Century Insurance Co., Sunshine Laundry, Take Care Insurance, AON/AB Risk Solutions, 99 Cents Supermarket, IP&E Sh¬ell Marianas, Best Deal General Merchandise, Artman Corp., Protech Pest Control, Triple J Saipan, and First Hawaiian Bank.

Other cash sponsors include PEGS LLC, Hana Tour, Chung Gi Wa Restaurant, J's Restaurant, Yaong Corp., and Korea Hardware.

Supporting HANMI hotels are Coral Ocean Resort Saipan, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Aqua Resort Club Saipan, Century Hotel, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Saipan World Resort, and Surfrider Resort Hotel.

Optional play for the tournament is $30 and includes Accurate Drive (hole No. 9) and four chances for Nearest to the Pin (holes No. 3, 7, 13, and 17). Showtime is 6am, and the tournament will start at 7am. The tournament follows a blackjack double Peoria format.

This year's awards banquet will be held at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan Ataari cultural dinner show starting at 5:30pm with a well-stocked raffle prize list.

For more information, contact tournament chair Das Krishnan at das.krishnan@ihg.com. ***(PR)***

B.LEAGUE

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easily accessible to many aspiring athletes back home or in the Marianas. Essentially, I feel like there can always be more spaces created for young athletes, and I wanted to be a part of filling the gap for those opportunities that I didn't always see growing up," he said.

The 30-year-old added that he wants to share his basketball journey—the highs and lows, the obstacles, the competitiveness, and the level at which he played.

"My message is that pursuing a professional career in basketball is attainable if you dedicate yourself fully, though it demands significant commitment and sacrifice. Since retiring in 2022, I've returned to Guam with the goal of teaching and sharing what I've learned about advancing to the next level of basketball. My objective is to expand my influence and impart my knowledge of the game. Having met several passionate basketball players from Saipan, I see an opportunity to connect with the youth there and inspire them to pursue their dreams just as I did."

The Guam National Basketball Team gold medalist in the 2014 Micronesian Games, standing at 5'8" said, "I want to show that I'm just like everyone else—I'm not 7 feet tall, nor was I the most skilled player growing up. However, my commitment to daily practice and dedicated training helped me excel. I focused on more than just scrimmaging or casual shooting. I evaluated my weaknesses and built on my strengths—understanding how they would translate from high school to college and eventually to the professional league. That success lies in holding yourself accountable and staying consistent, whether in basketball or any other pursuit."

This will be the first time he will visit Saipan, but has been planning and looking for the right moment to come here for the past two years. With that, he said that he's been intentional about connecting with Saipan's coaches and athletes in order to offer insights gained from his seven-year professional journey. He also wants to learn from them, which will contribute to his growth as a trainer, coach, and mentor.

He then said he's fortunate to have friends and family in Guam, whose assistance have been instrumental for the growth of Grind Basketball over the past two years. "Their support has made it possible for me to travel to Saipan and share my experiences there," he said. He also thanked Saipan's Jacqueline Lizama and Mike Mercado "for their crucial assistance in bringing this plan to fruition."

For more information about Grind Basketball, visit www.thehumanplane.com.

YAMAGASHI

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Saehee Kim and Eue Ae Chang finished fifth and sixth with post-handicap scores of 75 apiece.

The club continues to look for new members as the new season continues. For those interested in becoming a member of CWGA or for more information, contact CWGA president Yuko Togawa at (670) 287-9856, vice president Lorraine Babauta at (670) 287-0621, or treasurer Lou Kim at (670) 783-7317.

FOUR

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Leon Guerrero, Juan Leon Guerrero, Jayce Tyquiengco, Xander Ngeskebei, Josiah Duenas, Azaiah Hosono, and Ayven Sablan. The coaching staff includes Shine Tenorio, Jeff Tomokane, Nate Torres, and Scott Muna.

The Blue Jays 2 team includes Kaylynn Camacho, Keomi Rios, Joseph Lizama, Eliott Indalecio, Elijah Indalecio, Aikiden Fiden, Edwin Cabrera, Bentley Koshiro, Deighton Muna, Josiah Pangelinan, Kaiyo Alepuyo, Angel Ray Camacho, Ryan Camacho, and Ana Roberto. The coaching staff include Nate Sablan, Jeremy Koshiro, and Karina Camacho.

The Pirates team is made of Huck Bauer, Quinn Bauer, Thomas Flores, Scarlett Flores, Makai Cutting, Callem Torres, Jace Brennfleck, Waylon Beyer, Makai Owens, Jeremiah Pangelinan, Jayana Pangelinan, Cayden Flores, Declan Wingerter, Emily Fehrenbacker, and Ellis Fehrenbacker. The coaches are Rick Bauer, John Sablan, Derrick Cutting, Doemiko Flores, and Albert Flores.

The Padres are Mariana Salas, La'Rina Koreen Iguel, Trent Iguel, Enzo Salas, Luis Antonio Arriola, Lukas Leon Guerrero, Landon Ray Salas, John Iguel Jr., Ivy Litulumar, Landon Jay Pangelinan, Jose Flores, Xander Mendiola, Leland Ogumoro-Kintol, Skyler Sablan, Stella Sablan, and Qias Camacho. Special batters and bat boys are Kolten Iguel, Jett Salas, Dominic Miguel Salas, and Liam Ogumoro-Kintol. The coaches are Ton Salas, Jordan Suel, Rich Salas, Jay Kintol, and Zack Flores.

The formation of the NMI Softball Association happened just last April. The board consists of president Froilan Camacho, vice president Anthony Tomokane, secretary Melanie Rdiall, treasurer Carla Sablan, and public information officer Kyle Hocog, and board members Preston Basa and Erlinda Naputi. The federation was originally set up to send the NMI Women's National Fast Pitch Softball Team to the Micronesian Games in Majuro, Marshall Islands last June. "The NMI Softball Association is the national federation for softball now and as we're doing all this, it all leads to other programs," said Hocog.

The league was in partnership with the Division of Youth Services and Hocog said they wanted to focus on grassroots for the development of softball. Hocog said that this year, as it was just for fun, "Everybody was a winner." However, next year, he said that "it'll be more competitive."

Hocog then gave a shoutout to DYS, the volunteers—coaches and managers, and the families that came out. "We had a great outcome with the support," he said of the league.

LEIGH GASES

The Blue Jays 2 team, left, and the Pirates team, pose for a group photo at the conclusion of the NMI Softball Association's first ever T-Ball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios baseball field last Saturday.

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Royals beat the Twins to avoid the series sweep.

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Sports

HANMI Charity Classic Golf Classic sold out.

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B.League vet to hold camp on Saipan

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Grind Basketball Camp, run by former Japanese-American professional basketball player from Guam Morgan Hikaru Aiken, is set to elevate Saipan's young basketball players' skills at the end of the month.

The camp is on Friday, Aug. 30, from 3:30pm to 5pm, and Saturday, Aug. 31, from 5pm to 6:30pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Aiken, who is the first Guam high school graduate to sign a professional contract to play basketball overseas in the Japan Basketball League and later in the B.League, said the purpose of the camp is to create more opportunities for young athletes, and to share his experience and knowledge of the game of basketball.

"Throughout my collegiate and professional career, I have been blessed with various opportunities to travel and train in different camps and communities. This was something that I recognized was not as

See B.LEAGUE on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Japanese-American professional basketball player from Guam, Morgan Hikaru Aiken, left, with teammates in the B.League.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Japanese-American professional basketball player from Guam, Morgan Hikaru Aiken, in action in the B.League.

Four teams in 1st ever NMI Softball T-Ball League

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Softball Association's first ever T-Ball League was made up of four teams with games played at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios baseball field every Saturday over the past month.

The teams were the Blue Jays 1, Blue Jays 2, Pirates, and Padres. They started the league last July 20, ended last Aug. 10, and will cap with a family fun day this Saturday, Aug. 17, at 9am, also at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios baseball field.

The league was focused on the love of the game and the enjoyment of the little ones, as all batters in each lineup had a chance at the plate in a game that lasted three innings. They were also introduced to the fundamentals of hitting off the tee, throwing, base running, and fielding.

The Blue Jays 1 team consists of Millie Tenorio, Kentaro Muna Jr., Nakoa Torres, Chance Tomokane, Tominiko Hosono, Aliitoa Vaiagae, Manuia Passi, Tori Castro, Jances Passi, Adrian

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LEIGH GASES

A Blue Jays 2 catcher tags out a Pirates baserunner at home plate during their last game in the NMI Softball Association's first ever T-Ball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios baseball field last Saturday.

Yamagashi yanks August ace

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Dolores Yamagishi registered her first win of the CNMI Women's Golf Association season during the August CWGA Tournament held last Aug. 10 at the Coral Ocean Resort in Agingan.

The 2023 CNMI Women's Golf Association Two-day Tournament champion shot a net score of 71 to fend off other challengers for the monthly plum.

Yamagishi shot a 46 in the front nine and a 47 in back for a gross of 93, which minus her 22 handicap, gave her the winning net score of the August tilt.

"The course was okay but the weather was hot and humid," she said about the round last Saturday. Her easiest hole was hole No. 3, "because it's a short par 3."

While her most difficult hole was hole No. 5, "because there were bunkers and water [hazards]."

The 69-year-old then dedicated her August win to all "CWGA ladies that played that day."

Her three-word answer to how she felt after winning the monthly tourney was, "It felt good!"

Yamagishi, a 20-year veteran in playing golf, said she got her start in the sport after she began playing with friends.

Runner-up in the August tourney was Sunny Hyun with her net 73 built around a 46 in the first nine holes and a superb 39 in the last nine for a gross of 85. Third place went to Janet Torres with an identical 73 but lost via scorecard tiebreak. She had a line of 42-49 and 91.

Lorraine Babauta came in fourth with a net of 74, while

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CWGA

Dolores Yamagishi dedicated victory in the CNMI Women's Golf Association August Tournament to all CWGA ladies that played that day.